

T H E
F R Y E R :
O R

An Historical Treatise.

W H E R E I N

The idle Lives, Vitionfness,
Malice, Folly, and Cruelty
of the Fryers, is described.

In two P A R T S.

Tragical and Comical.

Collected out of sundry Authors,
and several Languages, and cau-
sed to be translated into *English*.

By *James Salgado a Spaniard*, for-
merly a Romish Priest.

L O N D O N,

Printed for the Author, 1680.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
TREAT FUND

TO HIS GRACE

J A M E S

DUKE of

Monmouth and Buclough.

My Lord,

T*Hough the lowest
Vertue ought not
to want its due
praise, yet true Re-
ligion (as it deserves) ought
to have the highest Encomi-
um, inasmuch as it surpasses
the rest as far as Divine ex-
cellence*

The Dedication.

Angels do excel all things
Natural.

The Moral Perfections
may be found in a high mea-
sure in those who are not act-
ed by the spirit and vigour
of true Religion: But where-
ever she hath her residence,
she produces all the Habits
of Vertue (who receive their
splendour from her, as Beams
from the brightness of the
Sun) and from thence diffu-
ses them on the rest of Man-
kind, influencing them to a-
pire at imitation.

And as Religion is in it
self

The Decree

self praise-worthy in the
est degree (as that which
nobles the Minds of Men
makes them indeed great
they were design'd by the
great Creator); so that
that be religious works
high commendation; and
specially those who by
Rank and Quality are
in the highest Sphere, so
as it were Exemplars to the
Vulgar; for though their
greatness makes them not
seldom the Objects of Envy,
yet they are not only feared
by the bad, but always ad-
mir'd.

The Dedication.

mir'd and prais'd by all good
men.

This is that which makes
Your Grace so esteemed by all,
and by which You deservedly
have the applause of all sorts
of men.

I will not here expatiate
concerning Your Renown'd
Exploits abroad, because they
are fitter for a Volume than
an Epistle; but will only re-
member, that Maetricht (re-
puted once invincible) has
now undeceiv'd the owners of
that fond opinion, by forfeit-
ing her Reputation to the
Force

The Dedication

Force of Your Arms; so that you may say (and with as good Reason as the valiant and renowned Cæsar) Veni, vidi, vici. And who can doubt the truth on't, that considers how so lately, and with so much facility, you appeased by your appearance the Troubles in Scotland, which were dissipated as a Mist before the brightness of the Sun.

But passing by Your Natural, Moral, and Military Endowments, as matters generally known to all; the true

Dedication.

Religion (in the profession
which Your Grace is so e-
minently conspicuous.) hath
produced such proofs of love
in most, and such arguments
of esteem to Your Person in
all, that should I go about
here to recite them, I should
tire my self with writing, and
at last be forced to quit the
task without being able to
give a due Description.

For this reason I took the
boldness of addressing my self
to Your Grace with this pre-
sent FRYER, that I might
bring him before Your Graces
Tribu-

Tribunal, as
to obtain Your
Etion.

True Religion does
ly consist in Worshipping
after a right manner
practising Holiness and
ty; but in the abhorrence
all false Worship, and ban
of Vice and Wickedness; as
as Your Grace is eminent
the first, so you shall here find
occasion enough for the se
cond, when you shall consider
the viciousness of their Lives
whose way of Worship you are
ready detest.

ication.

*his small Treas-
ure to Your Graces
censure, desiring again to be
delivered by Your Graces pro-
tection, to whom I most hum-
bly do insinuate my Condition,
and beg pardon for the pre-
sumption of,*

My Lord,

Your Graces most
Obedient, and most
Humble Servant,

JAMES SALGADO

A Spaniard, and Con-
verted Priest.

THE PREFACE

Kind Reader,

Several there were, and
are, that give their minds
to writing of divers Scien-
ces and Arts, delighting as
well in Contemplation, as in putting
their Conceptions into practice;
whereby their Souls are daily po-
lished, as Bodies are made active
and nimble by constant exercise:
And every one exerciseth himself
in that Art or Science which be

eface.

It is known, and knows. It may therefore seem strange to some, that I should not rather have published a Treatise of Divinity, than to trouble the World with these Histories of other Mens Actions. But since I adventured once in this kind before, without discouragement; and seeing the Labours of other Divines increase after such a manner, that they almost distract and weary out the Readers, I thought it not impertinent to divert thee with these Stories of some Fryers, I my self having been formerly a Fryer:

—quæ sunt Medicorum
Promittant Medici, tractent fab-
brilia fabri.

Notwithstanding, I do not this
with

with any design to defame
 der them, or any of them; For
 did not cemmence these Histories
 myself, but gathered and collected
 the same (not without Cost and
 Labour) out of several Authors
 of sundry Nations, who were Ro-
 man Catholicks themselves. My
 onely intent was, to shew the Pro-
 testants the cunning Knavery, mi-
 licious Cruelty, and deluding way
 of this sort of People; and to
 warn the Roman Catholicks to
 have a care how they hazard
 themselves in the power of such
 Persons, lest hoping for comfort,
 they meet with harm and damage,
 both as to their Souls and Bodies.
 Moreover, it was intended for
 Mens Recreation, that the Idle
 may thereby have Pastime, and
 the weary Diversion.

Kind

The Preface.

Kind Reader, *Be pleased to accept of my small Labours, and wish him well who means thee no harm.*

Farewell.

A
Tragical Narration.

The horrible Cruelties of a Spanish Fryer, and his miserable and desperate End.

IN Corduba, a principal City in Andalusia, in a Convent among many others, lived a religious Fryer, for Beauty, Parentage, and Behaviour, very much respected by all. It is the fashion in the Monasteries, that the younger Fryers go aside by themselves, and talk of several Matters amongst them. Sometimes they measure the
 B whole

whole World in a Minute, other times they dispose of Kingdoms and States ; now the consideration of the past *Roman* Empire, ~~another time the passage of the~~ *Turcian* Monarchy, is the Subject of their Discourse. Amongst the rest, it fell out one day, that they began to talk of Beauty, and every one gave in their Verdict, according as their Inclinations were bent to ; some praising the Dames of their particular Countries, other some extolling those they loved best. There was one amongst them, a young Man of great Prudence and Modesty, who hearing all their Discourse, said, What do you talk so much of the beautiful Dames of *Madrid* or *Toledo* ? All the Perfections which ever mortal Creature can
be

be capable of, are contained in a Gentlewoman living at *Ossuna*, Wife to a Lawyer, who is so abstinent from all other Societies and Companies, that the very Citizens themselves scarcely know her. He added to it the Lawyers Name, and some other particularities. The Discourse being ended, every one did go to his Cell. Now Fryer *Agilar* (so was the Gentleman's Name we are speaking of) being in his Chamber had time to overweigh the Words of the other Monk, and by them was so highly inflamed with Love towards the unknown and never-seen Gentlewoman, that he almost was besides himself, could never be at rest; Eating and Drinking he did not care for, feeding himself only

with the Fancies now of his Mistress Beauty. At last not willing to be subject to these his extreme and tormenting Passions, resolved to commit the greatest Villany as ever could be invented or thought upon. He had an intimate Friendship and Familiarity with the Procurer not only of that Convent, but also of the whole Province, who had in his keeping and custody all the Moneys of the Rents and Tithes belonging to the Monasteries. Which having very large and rich Foundations, made the Revenues to be the bigger. It happened then that this *Agilar* one Winter Night, went to this Procurer's Chamber, and after they had exchanged many Words in a familiar Discourse betwixt

Mi betwixt them, they began to
 vil play at Drafts. *Agilar* on pur-
 ex pose did always lose, whereby
 ns the Procurer being accended (as
 est commonly them that win are)
 en did protract the Play till two of
 ad the clock, after Midnight; and
 ni being the time was so far spent,
 ot *Agilar* said to the Procurer:
 fo Being it is so late, it is impossible
 ad for me to go to my Chamber,
 all without being heard, and if any
 d one should perceive or hear me
 a. at this hour of commanded si-
 e lence, I should doubtless undergo
 e a great Punishment. The Pro-
 t curer answered him, Father *Agi-*
 lar, for that you may escape this
 danger, there is no need you
 should go to your Chamber, stay
 here with me, and lye with me
 in my Bed. Fryer *Agilar* an-
 B 3 swered;

swered, Because the day is approaching I will not undress myself, but lye down so as I am upon one of your Chests, till it be Day, and then go to my own Chamber. The Procurer being content with what he said, undrest himself, and lay down in his naked Bed. Fryer Agilar, seeing the Procurer in a sound Sleep, took a Dagger (which he had for that purpose made ready) and coming to his Bed-side, thrust the Dagger into his Brest, and so most cruelly murdered him. Afterwards taking the Keys out of his Pocket, went to the Chest wherein the Money was kept, and opening the same, (not willing to take any Silver Money because of its heaviness) took two thousand Pieces of Gold.

Ha-

Having done that, he shuts the Procurer's Door after him, and easily getting over the Convent's Wall, betakes himself to his Father's House; where after he had knockt at the Door, the People of the House opening the same, were all amazed at his so untimely and unseasonable coming, he being a Priest, and bound by the Canons of the Convent, not to absent himself from his Chamber (being in City) about that time of Night: So they go to their Master, his Father, and tells him how that his Son Fryer *Agilar*, was there; Who extremely admiring at his coming, did presently enquire after the Reason of it. The Fryer presently told him, how he had been at Drafts with the Procurer, and how in

the midst of the play they fell into some quarrel, wherein the Procurer behaved himself so unmannerly, that he abused him after the saddest rate in the World; which he not being able to suffer, took a Dagger, and made him speechless by killing of him, whom he could not make hold his Tongue by civil Admonitions; and that he having lock'd his Door, betook himself to him, for to desire him, because he intended to go to *Rome* for an Absolution, he might provide immediately all things necessary for him, for that there was no time for talking or slaying any longer. The Father very sorry, with Tears and Sighs, for that great mischance which happened to his Son, lamented his Condition,

in- on, and seeing there was no other
the Remedy, gave him some Money,
un- and Secular Apparel; with a good
im Horse, to carry him to *Rome*.
he Fryer *Agilar* being thus furnish-
ed, did go into a Bush, not far di-
stant from the City, where he
of killed his Horse, and having dig-
ged a hole, buried his Horse, with
Saddle, Bridle and all. The next
Morning after, he being in a
Worldly Dress, returned to the
City, and went to one of his in-
timate Friends, and having open-
ed unto him the whole Concern,
desired that he might stay with
him without fear, and that his
Friend in the mean time, should
observe all what he heard of him,
and enquire what the Monks in-
tended. But his Friend could ne-
ver hear any thing of it, because

the Monks either for fear of Scandal, or some other cause, had buried the Procurer, without having given the least hint of it to any, besides the Murtherers Father, who feigned himself to know nothing of the business. A Month after, having bought a Horse, and all things convenient, he went to *Ossuna*: where being arrived, he asked of his Landlord, what Men was there to be found which were renown'd of Wisdom, Piety, and Learning. The Landlord telling him of many, amongst the rest he mentioned the Curate of the City, whom he, as a wise old Man, and in his proceedings very sage, did recommend above others. Fryer *Agilar* hearing this, immediately goeth to the Curate, and delivers him a Letter,

ter, as if it were from his Father
(which he purposely had caused
to be written.) The Words of
the Letter were these.

S I R,

I Do admire that you have never
been pleased to answer me, nor
the least Word, to so many Letters
of mine unto you directed. How-
soever I present my humble Service
to you, by this present. In the mean
time, because I send my Son to your
University, for the study of Civil
Law; I desire you to take care of
him, because he is young, and to
shew all the kindness you can.
Farewel. From Your

Mexico. A. D.

Diego Taviria.

The

The Curate hearing this, with many signs of Admiration, after he had a long time thought of, and ruminated the business, could not call to memory any such Person as *Diego Taviria*; saying to the Fryer: Sir, either you or your Father are mistaken, for I am perswaded I never knew such a Man in all my Life. But since the Letter is directed to me, and I know no Body here-about of that Name; wherein I am able to serve you, I will do it with all my Heart. Fryer *Agilar* answered, I do not know how my Father should fall into this Error, howsoever because I deem you to be an honest, sober, and a pious Man: I intend to give into your Custody, these two thousand pieces of Gold which I have brought

brought with me (pulling them
 in the mean time out) out of
 which you shall give me as much
 as I need for Victuals, Drink,
 and Apparel, for I intend to stay
 here a while, and study the Civil
 Law, at a House of some honest
 Lawyer, and renown'd for his
 Practice. The Curate seeing the
 Money, and hearing his Resolu-
 tion (being incited by Cove-
 rousness) immediately striking at
 his Forehead, as if he had called
 him to memory, crys out, Oh
 Lord! I beg Pardon at your
 Hands, Sir; Now I have called
 to memory your good honest
 Father. How does (Pray) ho-
 nest *Taviria*? how well, how
 pleasantly, and how friendly we
 lived one with another in our
 Youth, how many tricks had we
 to

together? Good *Taviria*! Pray how many Children hath he got? how doth he do? is he well in Health, and what Wealth hath he got at *Mexico*? *Agilar*, who only desired to bring this to pass, of the Curate's professing himself to be acquainted with his Father, having shortly answered him up-
 on his Demands, and having taken from him a Bond of Security, delivered up the Money into his Hands, having left something in his Pocket for dayly Expence. But before he departed from him, he enquired of the Curate, what Lawyers there were in the City, that were honest, pious, prudent, and Learned. The Curate told him of many, and amongst the rest, of the Husband of that Gentlewoman which he came for.

for. From thence he went directly to the House of this Lawyer, and finding him at home, told him his Errand; as likewise how his Father had written a Letter from *Mexico* to the Curate, with whom he had been acquainted in his Youth, and had been his School-fellow: and since the Curate had told him of his integrity of Life, and dexterity in his Affairs, he was willing and desirous to live in his House, not willing to be burthensome to him in any thing, besides in being informed by him in the practice of Law, for which his pains he would allow him fifty Crowns monthly. The Lawyer being somewhat jealous (as the Nature of *Spaniards* is) because of his Wives Beauty, did view this young Gentleman from

from top to bottom, and afterwards told him; Sir, there are so many wicked and malicious Men in this Age, that we ought to use great circumspection, whom we do entertain in our Houses; yet notwithstanding all this, because the Curate knows you, and you promise me this Reward: We will go to the Curate together, and in his presence make a Composition of our Business. So they both went to the Curate, who after the proposition of the Matter, presently answered, he would engage for him with all he had. This being done, the Lawyer admits him into his House, and appointed him a Chamber, where he was obliged to eat always by himself, lest he should come to see his Wife. This cunning

Mr. Fryer shewed always to the
 Lawyer the greatest respect in
 the World, and did not only pay
 him punctually what he had a-
 greed upon: but moreover, he
 presented him with great Gifts,
 and made many other extraordi-
 nary expences: whereof the
 Lawyer being ashamed, and not
 willing he should do himself any
 harm by so much Charges, said
 once to him; Sir, there is no
 need you should be at such great
 expences, I am sufficiently satis-
 fied with your Civility, neither
 would I desire that for my sake
 you should do prejudice to your
 self. Notwithstanding all this,
 Fryer *Agilar* did not leave off his
 usual manner. At last it happen-
 ed once, the Lawyer caused him
 to be call'd down to that Cham-
 ber

bet where he dined with his
 Wife. Fryer *Agilar*, no less asto-
 nished, than merry, goeth thither,
 and entring the Chamber espyed
 the Gentlewoman (which he
 had not seen as yet) and percei-
 ved that the relation of the other
 Fryer was nothing answerable to
 her exceeding Beauty, & as much
 short in comparison, as if the Sun
 had been drawn by a Coal. The
 Lawyer in the mean time saith
 to him: Though my Wife is not
 used to admit any Body into her
 Society besides me, nevertheless
 because you seem an honest and
 a discreet Gentleman, I have de-
 termined you should from hence-
 forth Dine and Sup with us. He
 thanking him most humbly, dis-
 sembled his Love towards her, so
 that at the Dinner time he never
 lifted

lifted up his Eyes, but with great
 modesty ; having done his Din-
 ner, bid them Farewel. Once it
 fell out, that after Dinner, the
 Lawyer plaid at the Tables with
 his Wife, and that in the mean
 time a Friend of his came to talk
 with him, so that he being forc'd
 to leave his Game, and be-
 ing near to winning, would
 not give it over, but desired the
 young Gentleman to take notice
 in his absence, lest his Wife should
 set wrong the men, for her own
 advantage. After the Lawyer
 was gone down, he very often
 thought to open unto her the In-
 clinations he had towards her,
 but being repressed by fear, did
 not ; until she, being desirous to
 win, supposing him to be a good
 Gamester, demanded of him, if
 he

he could not shew her a way whereby she might overcome her Husband : he thus answered her ; Madam, I would shew you a way whereby you might overcome as well me as your Husband. There he began to expound to her all the matter, how he was a Gentleman's Son, had heard of her Celestial Beauty, and not having seen her, fell in love with her, and how he had contrived to be admitted into her House ; and having looked for many opportunities to disburthen his Thoughts before her, could never find any besides this, therefore he falling at her Feet, embraced the same, desiring Mercy and Clemency at her hands. She being astonished, having not been assaulted in that way

way any time before: besides,
 being of a resolution to be faith-
 ful to her Husband in Duties of
 Honesty, fell into a rage so ex-
 treme, that she in a fuming way
 began to speak to him thus: O
 thou greatest Villain in the
 World, and Knave, not worthy
 whom the Earth should bear, are
 you come hither to bereave me
 of my Honesty, and against all
 Laws of Nature, defile the Bed
 of Holy Matrimony; Thou art
 not a Nobleman, but some piti-
 ful Rascal, because against all
 Hospitality and Kindness of my
 Husband exhibited to you, you
 desire to turn my Heart from
 him; and so speaking some other
 Words, she catches up the Ta-
 bles, and throws them at his
 Head, making a great noise;
 which

which the Husband hearing, presently runs to the Chamber. Whereat the Fryer amazed, did not know what in the World to say: But the Gentlewoman not willing to do any harm to their Guest, turned the whole matter thus. This Gentleman would have taught me some trick whereby I might win and overcome you, and I perceiving it could go on, I was ordering the Men according as I thought best, and in doing so I unawares threw down the Tables (with my Sleeve, and so came this noise to be. The Lawyer hearing that, was satisfied, laughing at the whole matter as a thing vile and of no consequence. In the meantime Fryer *Agilar*, all disturbed, discomforted, and ashamed, not with-

without fear of being discovered
 his intentions, repaired to
 his Chamber, and immediately
 swooned away, falling into such
 an extremity of a dangerous
 sickness, that they all gave him
 over for lost. The Lawyer who
 already loved him not only for
 gain, but also for Friendship and
 familiarity's sake, was extremely
 sorry for him, and not only vi-
 sited him his own self, but also
 made him to be attended by Ser-
 vants and Nurses; providing for
 him all things he thought fit and
 necessary. Once having a great
 deal to do, and not having time
 to wait upon him, desired his
 Wife to give him a visit, and to
 comfort him in his Sickness. She
 willingly did it, either out of a
 will to obey her Husbands Com-
 mands,

mands, or to have an opportunity of talking with her Captive Being with him, and overweighing that he was so dangerously Sick, and looked almost as Death, and that for **her sake**, she turn'd Hatred into **Love**, and began thus to reason with him. Are you a Gentleman of a noble Blood, and lose your Courage and Stoutness at the first stroke? do not you know, that not the first assaulting of the Enemy, but the perseverance in the desire of overcoming, carries away the Victory? Besides, though Gentlemen may have a good Inclination at the first sight of their supposed Lovers, yet they will not let it be seen, for fear that sooner yielding, should cause a greater contempt of their dexterity.

rity. And if I should have con-
 sented to your Demands at your
 first proposal, surely you had, not-
 withstanding your long Pati-
 ence and long Travels, hated me
 as much as ever you loved me be-
 fore. Cheer up therefore, and
 take a good Heart, and be careful
 of your Health and Recovery,
 which doing, you will oblige me
 to yeild to your desires, as soon
 as ever you shall recover. The
 desperate Fryer being erected by
 those hopes began to mend, and
 in a very short time after, quite
 recovered himself. After this the
 Lawyer's Wife instructed him,
 how he might come to her with-
 out being seen by any, or with-
 out the least suspicion of her
 Husband. As namely, that he
 should fain himself to be some-
 what

what indisposed, and desire the
 Lawyer, her Husband, that no
 Body should come to his Cham-
 ber to disturb him ; and then she
 would look for an opportunity
 to let him into her Chamber, and
 hide him behind the Curtains, till
 her Husband should fall asleep,
 and then she would admit him
 into her Company : And this she
 did, because her Husband was so
 jealous, that he always lock'd
 the Door of his Chamber on the
 inside, so that neither she could
 come out, nor he come in. Ac-
 cording to this their Agreement
 the business was done. And the
 Lawyer (as the fashion there is)
 having lock'd all the Doors, and
 taken the Keys with him, went
 to Bed, The Eccho of this Fry-
 ers Sickness, came to the Curates
 Ears;

Ears ; who either out of Love to-
wards this Gentleman, or else for
the love of the Money he had in
his Custody, came that very same
Night to visit him, and knocking
hard at the Door made the Law-
yer rise out of his Bed ; He com-
ing down, ask'd him, who it
was that knock'd so hard at the
Door ? The Curate answered it
was he, and that he hearing of
his Son's (so he call'd this Fryer's)
indisposition could not forbear
but come to him. The Lawyer
answered, He might spare his
pains, for that the Gentleman
had desired not to be troubled by
any, and he, because of his Ge-
nility, was bound to do him that
kindness, as to admit to his
Chamber no Body, whatever he
might be. But the Curate insist-

ing much upon it, that he would see him whatsoever should be come of it, and obliging very much the Lawyer to admit him to the speech of his Son, he at last had the Door open'd to him, and both he and the Lawyer went to his Chamber Door, which he finding open immediately went in, and not finding him within, presently suspected something extraordinary, especially remembering his great courtesies he shewed to his Wife, and that noise we spoke of something higher, he began to be jealous of her, and at last concluded he must necessarily be with her. Still he dissembled all his suspicion before the Curate, and said, May be he is gone out for some while, to take the fresh Air, in
this

his cool Night, and finding him
 self to be somewhat better than
 before, he stays a little longer
 than ordinary. The Curate be-
 ing satisfied by these Words, took
 his leave of the Lawyer, and
 went his ways; after whose de-
 parture, the Lawyer (as we told
 you) perceiving the business,
 goeth immediately towards his
 Chamber, and taking his naked
 Sword in his hand searches for
 the Traitor; which the Gentle-
 woman seeing, out of love to her
 new Servant, goeth towards
 her Husband, and puts out the
 Candle. After this, Fryer *Agil-
 lar*, being a lusty stout young
 Man, takes hold of the Lawyer,
 wrings his Sword out of his
 Hands, and kills him immediate-
 ly with his own Weapon. The

Servants of the House, as well as
other Neighbours, hearing the
great tumult and noise, which
these two Combatants had made
did altogether rise, and causing
the Door to be broke open, saw
the Lawyer Murthered, and took
Fryer *Agilar* Prisoner, the Gen-
tlewoman in the mean time esca-
ping into a Nunnery. There
was the beginning of this doleful
Womans Tragedy, and a part of
the Fryer's innumerable Wicked-
nesses. Now this Gentlewoman
having been a long time in the
place of her Refuge, at last would
be in the use of a greater Liberty,
and by the means of her Friends,
and Relations was sent to ano-
ther City a great ways distant
from *Ossuna*. Being there she
bearing a kindness for this wick-
ed

ed and unfortunate Fryer, writ
 to him a Letter, wherein she ex-
 plained her great desire she
 had to see him, and beseech-
 ing him to get out of the Prison
 by all means he could, told him
 the Town and place where she
 was; praying he should not stay
 long from her, but come to the
 comfort of her, whom he had
 made miserable by his Affection.
Agath receiving this Letter was
 extremely affected with it, not
 knowing how in the meantime
 to contrive, that he might get
 loose, or break out of Prison. At
 last he resolved by the first opor-
 tunity to kill the Keeper of the
 Prison, which he also performed,
 and by this means got out him-
 self, and let out all the rest of the
 Prisoners, and so escaped. Now
 his

his only desire was to see his Mistris, which to obtain he directly goeth towards the City where she lived, and having found her out, immediately went to her, desirous to accomplish his long passions, to which he was invited by the Gentlewomans own Letter. She either because of his long absence, or else touchd with the Death of her Dear Husband, whom she had so untimely lost for his sake, would not yield now to his desire, but bid him go his ways, and forbear her company. He notwithstanding that did not cease to give her visits : But not being able to obtain any thing of her, it hapned once they were both by themselves in a Chamber, where he having received

a full denial of her kindness, most cruelly Murders her, and having left her in her own blood, goeth his ways, escaping into *Valentia*, where he became a Captain of the *Banditis*, (which are a sort of Robbers and Highway-Men.) Which life he did lead a matter of two or three years, committing such cruelties and excesses, as *Busins* or another *Ihadamantus* had never Committed.

To kill a Man was his only delight, and many a time after he had half killed them, he tormented them after the most exquisite manner, he ever could invent. He had a deal of Pleasure to see how the dying Men behaved themselves in their agonys, as if he had not been contented

tented to kill their Bodies, unless he see the very separation of their Souls from them, cruelty being of that Nature, that it Breaths nothing but the utter ruine and Destruction of its Object.

Once he met with a Chirurgion, and perceiving what he was, demanded of him what was best for a heavy obstinated Stomach. The Physitian answered him a Purge should be very good for it. But the Fryer answering he could take nothing in of himself. the Chirurgion replied, there was another way of Purging, by a Glyster, whom the Fryer as if he had not known what it was, ask'd how it might be, and proceeding, (he telling him it was conveyed to the Intrals

trals by the Fundament,) the Fry-
 er said, I must try that art first
 upon your own self, to see
 what operation it may have in
 you, and then I will use it. So he
 commanded his Men to take hold
 of him, and having filled a Hun-
 ting Horn full with Gunpowder,
 caused the same to be stop'd into
 his Breech, and afterwards made
 the top of the Horn very close,
 which being done he commanded
 the Powder should be kindled,
 and this being done also, the good
 Chirurgeon was rent in pieces,
 and so lamentably lost his life.

Another time he meets with
 a Man and his Wife, whom he
 takes, and having abused her
 most Villanously, by the fulfil-
 ling of his abominable Lusts, he
 causes her to be bound to a Tree,
 and

and makes her (she being big with Child) After the *Neronian* cruelty to be ript open, to see in what manner and fashion the Child lay in its Mothers Belly, and having seen all this, commands her heart to be torn out and to be put into the Embrios Mouth to choke him, for that the same heart which gave life both to Mother and Child should now be the cause of their Deaths.

And who can tell all that this most sad and brutal wretch committed, to pain Men to Death, to cut of Peoples Ears and Noses, privy parts, to put one Eye out and leave the other half blind, it was his only Pleasure and Recreation. At last the People complaining so much of this disorder, to the *Viceroy* he caused a
strong

big strong party of Souldiers to go
 against this Fryer *Agilar* and his
 companions, who being utterly
 routed, the Fryar seeing himself
 quite undone, betakes himself to
 a place (which was a dry pit,)
 wherein he often in time of ex-
 tremity was used to hide himself.
 whereof the *Viceroy* being infor-
 med, by one of the Captains of
 his side, immediately sent a
 company of Souldiers to take
 him. They comming there de-
 fired him to come out promising
 pardon in the Name of his Ma-
 jesty of *Spain*. But neither the
 hopes of Pardon, nor any other
 reasons which the Souldiers used
 as means to get him, could not
 prevail with him. Yea, on the
 contrary side he most filthily a-
 bused them, calling them as ma-
 ny

ny Rogues and Knaves as himself had committed Villanies, and if any of them ventured to go down, he having his Gun charged immediately did shoot at them and kill them, till at last he miserably and desperately died in that hole for want of victuals and drink. Which the *Viceroy* hearing of made him to be drawn out, and having brought him into the City, he commanded first his Head to be cut off, and afterwards made him to be quartered, the Head being placed upon a High Steeple, and the quarters at the corners of four High-Ways, leading towards the City. This was the Tragical Life of Fryer *Agilar*, and his miserable and desperate end. All this came to pass

as in the Raign of *Philip the*
Fourth of Spain.

Two Fryers *Ruffino* and *Valeno*,
 goeth out at nights very often
 out of their Covent privatly, by a
 Gate, and Houseth with their
 Amorous Ladies, at last one be-
 ing forced to it by necessity kills
 the other, and the Murtherer
 is also killed by his Ladys Hus-
 band.

IN *Sarragoza*, the cheif City of
 the Kingdom of *Aragon*,
 was resident a Noble Person, for
 his gentile behaviour, Riches, and
 Valour, very much looked upon
 and esteemed by all. This Mar-
 ried a young Gentlewoman cal-
 led *Emilia*, not less heartful then
 Noble.

Noble. The same Gentlemen whom (for some particular respects,) We call will *Aurelio*, notwithstanding the Beauty and the charms of his new Spouse, did always much divert himself abroad, and many a time faining to have great businesses about the Court, absented himself from home for many days. The Gentlewoman commonly did go to Church, to a certain Covent, where Father *Ruffino*, her Confessor was resident, and by that opportunity she took an occasion of complaining before him, about the vicious life of her Husband, not knowing by what means she might reduce him to the sence of his folly as well as Duty. Fryer *Ruffino* did comfort her as much as he could, and
visited

visited her very often, which no
 body took ill, for that the most
 retired and close Houses are (not-
 withstanding the Natural jealousy
 of the *Spaniards*,) always open
 to the Fryers. *Emelia*, in pro-
 cess of time, began to be very
 familiar with the Fryer; and ei-
 ther out of Love or viciousness,
 or else out of revenge, she ow'd
 her Husband for his disdain, che-
 rish'd up her sick heart with the
 presence and company of this
 Godly Father. And this their
 impudence had so far taken root
 in their hearts, that they would
 not content themselves with
 their dayly recreations, but
 would continue the same by
 night also. In order to that the
 Fryer came many nights to her,
 by a private entry of her Garden,
 to

to the Dore of which he had
Key, and comming into his
Chamber took possession of his
Husbands Bed.

Fryer *Ruffino* had another Fryer
called *Valerio* not very much un-
like himself, to whom as an ex-
treme Freind of his, he revealed all
his secrets about his Love; and
entertainment at the Lady
House. *Valerio* again told to him
all his amorous proceedings
which he had with his Mistress
to which he also determined
to reveal all what *Ruffino* had
told him about himself. So these
two knowing their mutual pro-
ceedings, and being of a like
temper, agreed amongst them-
selves to go out every night
and day together, when they
could obtain the Superiours
Licence

cence, who commonly ap-
 pints companions according to
 his Pleasure. In the Garden of
 his Covent in a by place, was a
 gate by which the Water disbur-
 en'd it self into the Channel, by
 which these two Fryers betwixt two
 years did always go out, not with-
 out a great deal of difficulty. And
 because they went to divers places
 and by several Streets, they made
 an agreement between them,
 that he who came first, should
 pay for the Companion. Al-
 ways when they went out, they
 were dressed in a Worldly dress,
 and well armed, not only with
 Swords, but also with pocket
 Pistols, a kind of Arms, which in
 that Kingdom is of a General use,
 especially in the night time. Fry-
 er *Valerio* being blinded by his
 Love,

love or rather by his Sin, told to his
 Strumpet all the buineis about
Ruffino. It fell out that one night
 either because of jealousy, or for
 something else, *Valerius* abused
 his Mistress most sadly, not only
 with words, but also with blows,
 and so went his ways, going di-
 rectly to the accustomed Gate,
 for to stay there for his Fellow
Ruffino. Who was already come
 there; and was in the Garden
 waiting for *Valerio*. He as soon
 as he came thither began to en-
 ter, and, putting his Head be-
 tween the ribs of the Gate, strove
 after the unufal manner to go in,
 but it fell so out, that he stuck
 fast, not being able to go either
 forwards or backwards. The
 miserable Fryers were extreemly
 troubled at this, because the day
 was

was aproching, where if they
 both should remain they should be
 known and suffer severely. Fry-
 er *Valerio* being in the lurch,
 threaten'd the other, that if so be
 he would not help him out, but
 leave him there, he would di-
 cover all the life and conversa-
 tion of them both. Fryer *Ruffi-*
no hearing this, and being on the
 other side of the Gate, said to
 him; what profit shall you have
 of it if you do ruine me, is not
 it enough you should suffer your
 self, if I could help you out I would
 with all my heart, but since I
 cannot, and you protest you shall
 discover me also; I shall find out
 a remedy for your silence, and
 drawing out his Dagger, cut off
 his Head, and having buried it
 in a very hidden place of the Gar-
 den,

den, went his ways to his Chamber. The People in the Morning passing by and seeing him lying there, were extreemly scandalized. The matter coming into the Ears of the Magistrate, they presently commanded him to be carried to the open Market place for that every one might take a view of him, if perhaps by his cloths or any other Mark or Sign, some should come to know him. but no body could tell any thing of him. Though they mist Fryer *Valerio* in the Covent that very same day when he was killed, and saw his Cloths and all his Apparel in his Chamber, yet they either could not be perswaded it was he that was exposed in the Market to the view of all, or else would not acknowledge him for theirs,

for

for fear of Scandal and for preserving the credit and existimacion of the Covent. The Murderer not knowing, that his secrets, by the ill conduct of his Companion in concealing such matters, were made publick, and being certain, that no living Soul had seen him killing *Galario*, was in a great quietness of his perverse mind; and continued to give visits to his Lady *Isabelio* in the meantime, when this was acting in *Saragoza*, and in his own House, he spent his time at *Madrid*. The dead Fryers and Mistress, knew him presently by his Cloths and other signes, for she had often seen him, but she held her Tongue because of her own Peril. She Loved him intirely, notwithstanding he had treated

treated her so unworthily, and
 therefore to revenge her self
 on this Murtherer, was a cause
 of many Tragical, and Scandalous
 accidents. She then Wrote
 a Letter to that place where the
 Husband of *Emilia* was tarry-
 ing, sending him word of all
 what was done, and every day
 passed at his House. *Aurelio*
 hearing this, as if he had awak-
 ed out of a sound, and deep sleep
 did take Post from *Madrid* to
Saragoza. Being there incog-
 nito, in a House of one of his
 Friends, he espied the Fryer
 one night when he had passed
 by. One night the Fryer did
 enter by the Dore of the Gar-
 den, where the Gentleman was
 watching his coming out, ha-
 ving patience till then, and not
 willing

, and willing to bereave him of his en-
 terprize. At last *Ruffino* came
 out, whom *Valero* did follow
 far off. And seeing him throw-
 ing in his Cloak, Hat, and Arms,
 through the Grate, stayd till
 he had put in his Head between
 the ribs to creep into the Gar-
 den, and perceiving he was alrea-
 dy about it, runs heartily to-
 wards him, and having stab'd
 him in several places, at last he
 cut off his Head, and putting his
 hand through the ribs, threw
 his Head into the Garden as far
 as he could, and his Body was
 left at the mouth of the Grate.
 Afterwards *Aurelio*, returned
 into the House of his Friend,
 where he kept privately for some
 time. Being there, he caused by
 the means of his Friend, that

D

Woman

Woman to be Poisoned that had sent him this news, about the business of his Wife and *Ruffine* the like he did to *Emilia* his Wife because of her lechery, and immediately returned to *Madrid* where he fell into Malancholy and being extreemly ill, and near to his Death, made a Letter to be written to the *Vice-Roy* of *Saragoza*, giving him notice of all that had hapned, as well touching his Wife as the other Harlot, together with the manner of the Life of both the Fryers, desiring him that he should cause the lives and conversations of the Holy Fryers to be looked after somewhat narrower.

an abominable Sin of a Knight of Malta, committed by the assistance of a Monk; upon a young Gentleman, and of the ensuing Punishment for it.

A *Poland Gentleman* (whose Name for some particular Reasons, I will not mention, but call him here *Erantbe*) of a Noble House and an Illustrious Family ; being inflam'd with a desire to go for *Italy*, a Country greatly renowned over all the World, and especially to *Rome*, as well to take a view of the old Monuments, and Antiquities ; which in their very Ruines shews as yet the Glory and the Pomp of that Nation ; which made one Monarchy out of the

Universe, as to spend his time in all sorts of vertuous exercises dresseth his train, and with an honest equipage, arrives at last to *Florence*. The Beauty of the City, and the courteous entertainment which he received at the Court of the great Duke, made him to stay longer there then ever he had done at any other place, since his departing from his own Country. Sometimes he run a race with a mangled Horse, whom he kept on purpose, sometimes he went to Chase a Dear with the Prince, and every where he shewed himself so brave and so able, that he was very acceptable to the best Gentlemen of the City. Moreover his Beauty served him greatly; he being so pritty, that his
like

like was not to be found almost
 in the whole World: His Eyes
 were round and black, his Hair
 short and curled, his Face lively
 and of a good colour, being
 painted with the mixture of Ro-
 ses and Lillies, in short he was all
 handsome and well proportic-
 ned. As for the rest, he had not
 as yet attained to the nineteenth
 year of his age. All these his
 Qualities, Beauty, Youth, Va-
 lour, and Riches, made him
 so commendable every where,
 that he gained the Love of all.
 Having been there longer than
 he had intended, at last being
 willing to pursue his intended pe-
 regrination, took his leave of all
 at *Florence*, and intended for
Rome. But falling somewhat in-
 disposed by the way, sojourned

for a day or two in a Village where he had first taken his Lodgings: During that time, Knight of *Malta*, (whom we shall call *Flamino*, not willing to tell his proper Name, because of the honour which we ought to have of Illustrious Families, as his was arrived to that same Lodging where *Erantke* was; *Flamino* had seen him at the great Duke's Court, a cursed and an execrable love towards the beauty of this Gentleman, made so passionate, that he was in the very bonds of Death. He thought of nothing else, then of getting means for the performing of his infamous delight. A Sin cursed and detestable, abhorred by God and Nature. This abominable passion made him stay sometime at *Florence* for

to see if any .occasion, what-
 soever it might be should offer it
 self, that he might accom-
 plish his desire ; but seeing that
 he aimed at a thing impossible, he
 was resolved to lay aside the pur-
 suit. Afterwards, being it fell
 out, that the young Gentleman
 was in the same Lodging where
 he had arrived, and that he
 was ready to depart the next
 Morning to go for *Rome*, he
 found out a trick as subtile and
 cunning for contriving, as cursed
 for the executing of it. He dis-
 sembleth as if he had never seen
Arminio, but having got oppor-
 tunity to apply himself to one of
 his Household, he particularly in-
 formeth himself of his descent,
 of the name of his nearest Rela-
 tions, and of those Lands and
 Goods

Goods he possessed in *Poland*.
 After he had learned more things
 than he ever demanded, which
 he set down upon a Paper, the
 better to remember it, he departed
 next Morning after, following
 always *Eranthe*, by little
 and little, to know where he
 should lodge, without speaking
 a Word to him, or making him-
 self any ways known. So *Eran-*
the took his Lodgings at *Rome*
 next to the Bear, and the Knight
 just over against him. The *Pol-*
land Gentleman was no sooner
 come to *Rome*, but he began to
 spend his time either in the *Aca-*
demies; or else where any exer-
 cises of Vertue were Practized.
 His Beauty, and his Dress,
 join'd with his Free and Courte-
 ous Humour, acquired to him the
 kind-

kindness of all the World. *Flaminius* thought upon all the means he could, to fulfil his Will; either by *Erantbe's* consent, or by force, but presently chose the latter before the former, by reason he could not be ignorant that *Erantbe* would never give his consent to it. At last disputing, how to bring to pass his Design, resolved to quit *Rome*, and to go for *Naples*, as well by staying there to put out of his Head this abominable Fancy which he so secretly kept in his Breast, as because he had little or no acquaintance at *Rome*. In the mean time when this Knight was at his House in *Naples*, not knowing what might happen for the future. *Erantbe* had at *Rome* the Name of the most accomplish'd

Gentleman, that ever was
 seen. Thinking afterwards he
 had seen *Rome* sufficiently, he
 took a fancy to go to *Naples*
 to see that City whose surname
 is *Gentile*. In order to that he
 made his Servants make all
 things ready for their departure.
 But O! miserable and unhappy
 Gentleman, whether art thou
 going? The greatest affront, that
 ever could happen to any Gentle-
 man of thy Degree and Quality,
 attends thee. Would to God
 thou hadst been still in thy own
 Country, without ever having
 a Design to pass the *Alpes*. *Lanthe*
 arrived thither, during
 that time, wherein they made
 Bon-Fires for Joy, for they cele-
 brated the Marriage day of the
 King of *Spain*. They spoke no
 thing

wa thing but of Triumphs, of Ring-
 ds h runnings, of Combats upon the
 y, h Stages, and of Running of Ra-
 cles. The *Spaniards* and the *I-*
 nam *Italians* being inflamed with envy
 at h one against the other did strive to
 al shew their Activity before one
 ture another. As the *Poland* Gen-
 appy tleman, went one day to the
 the place where they celebrated the
 the feast, *Flamino* did espy him, and
 ntle knew him presently. The cur-
 lity, sed and execrable love, which
 God by that time he had somewhat
 owe extinguished in his Heart, began
 ving to be kindled again more vio-
 L lently than ever before. When
 ring he was informed where he lodg-
 ade, he stay'd one day in the Street
 cele by which *Erantbe* was to pass.
 the As soon as he saw him, he lighted
 no off from his Horse, and run to
 ing em

embrace him. *Eranthe* being astonished at his new Complements, lighted down also excusing himself because of that small acquaintance he had with him. Ha Sir! quoth the other, if you do not know me at all, I am not ignorant who you are. Your Father is called the Earl of *Pleſt*, a brave Cavalier as ever was to be found in the World. He ſhewed his ſignal Valour in that famous Battel, which the *Polanders* won againſt the *Tartars*, which hath rendred him famous, and the glory of his Memory everlaſting. You have an Uncle whoſe name is Baron of *Anty*. I received of him a deal of kindneſs in the time of my ſtaying in *Poland*, where I ſtayed almoſt four years, for ſome Affairs

ng i-airs concerning our Order. In
 Com- short, I am so highly obliged to
 also your Blood, that I possess nothing
 that in the World which should not
 with be at any time at your Service.
 ther. *Erant* being amazed at this
 ll, I Acquaintance, and believing all
 are. to be true what the other said,
 I of thanked him for his good Will,
 ever and in exchange of that he offer-
 rd. ed all whatsoever lay in his
 in Power or Command. That is
 the not all faith the other, I will
 Far- not suffer by any means you
 a fa- should use any other Lodging
 Me- besides mine: You shall be better
 an accomodated, and attended with
 of a deal of greater Devotion, than
 eal where you lodg at present: for
 ny I have received other greater
 ed kindneses of your Relations than
 At- this is. The *Poland* Gentleman
 rs con.

continued to give thanks, excusing himself because of that obligation he made to him, for going to his House, believing he should be troublesome to him. Upon this, the other answered him courteously, pressing him so much to do what he desired, that he was constrained, lest he might be taken for an uncivil and ill natured Person, not to condescend to his Demands. So he went with him, and was placed in the bravest Lodgings in his House. *Flaminio* offering himself to treat him after the most magnificent way he could. He also resolved to do him all sorts of Pleasures. He made him frequent the best Companies, and all the Rarities of the City. Having thus entangled *Eranthe* by his Artifices,

and

. exc and feigned Kindness; the unfor-
 at one unate and detestable Man, not
 to be being able to forbear longer his
 uld b unnatural Love, he had com-
 on a bounded with a Fryer, as un-
 d him lucky and detestable as himself.
 much This Resolution being taken,
 at he these unlucky Men put it into
 night execution after this manner;
 l na *Flaminio* went one day to con-
 cene duct *Braccio* to his Coach; They
 went out of the Town, and af-
 the afterwards riding in the Coach, the
 use. Knight of *Malta* did go directly
 reat to the Covent which we imme-
 ent diately spoke of. When they
 ved were neer to it, he feigned before
 res. the Gentleman, as if he had some
 est business of importance; so that
 ies he commanded his Coach man to
 en. stand at the Door. Sir, (quoth
 es, he to the *Polander*) be pleased to
 nd give

give me leave to go in here, and
 talk a little to a Fryer living here.
 There is no necessity answers the
 other, to demand leave about
 such a business as this, I will ac-
 company you if you please. *Fla-*
minio made himself seem as if he
 would not trouble him with a
 denial of his being conveyed by
 him, for that he would come a-
 gain immediately. At last he
 went out of his Coach and entred
 the Covent, being accompanied
 by the *Polander*. He betook
 himself to a solitary place, where
 the Monk staid for him. This
 Monk being possessed by the De-
 vil, made them go into a Cham-
 ber where a Collation was made
 ready. He made them to put
 off their Hats and their Swords.
 and afterwards made them drink
 stoutly.

, and outly. When they were pretty
 her merry, *Flaminio* approaching to
 rs the *Gravie*, began thus to speak to
 about him.

ll ac My Lord *Exanthe*, there is no
Flaminio necessity I should use many
 if he words to make you under-
 th a and my Intention; your Beau-
 by and good Grace, have so in-
 ce a med my love towards you,
 he at I must obtain that at your
 red and which I desire; or else, you
 ied must die immediately. Choose
 ok of these two things which you
 ere will, either to satisfy my desire,
 his or die. If you make me happy of
 e. your own accord, you are secure
 n. as well of your Life, as of ha-
 le ving a Friend, who shall be bound
 t to you for ever. Resolve to give
 s. me satisfaction presently, or else
 k to suffer what I spoke of. Ha-
 ving

Having said this, he held a Pistol to his Head ready to discharge. The Fryer on the other side, having seized upon his Sword, which he held drawn in his Hand, threatned him with Death, if so be he would not yeild to their desires. The poor Gentleman was greatly astonished seeing himself thus surprized without Sword or Cane. The Image of Death did present itself before his Eyes on the one side, and on the other the detestable sin which they were going to commit upon him. Sometimes he was resolved to bear the Trepass, sometimes to suffer Death, so he was all this while in a Balance, betwixt the one thing and the other. Make hast says *Flaminio*, otherwise you are a Man

of Death. I desire you, answer-
 ed the Gentleman, have pity
 upon me and do not treat me so
 unworthily. We have slayed
 too long answers the Fryer, 'tis
 necessary he should die: Having
 said this, he made as if he would
 have run him through with his
 own Sword, and *Flaminio* seemed
 as if he would have discharged
 the Pistol. Stay Gentlemen
 (saith the *Polander*, whom the
 fear of Death had already besie-
 ged) I'll do all you please, provi-
 ded you'll grant me my Life.
 Have no fear of Death saith *Fla-
 minio*, I'll above all this sacrifice
 my whole Goods and Possessions
 to and for you, after you have
 consented to what I have propo-
 sed to you: See how the fear of
 Death maketh the *Polander* to
 per-

permit the Knight of *Malta* to
 do what he desired. The Fryer
 had his share also. O Heavens
 where is your tears! Why do not
 you thunder at these execrable
 Wretches? After the Achieve-
 ment of this pretty Deed, they
 took a resolution of putting him
 to Death, thereby the better to
 cover their misdemeanour. But
Erantbe who was always suspect-
 ing their Design, presently after
 the unhappy Deed flies to the
 Knight, falls about his Neck,
 kissing and cherishing him after
 the best manner he could invent.
 I find saith he, your embracing
 so sweet, that I beseech you, we
 may not be seperated one from
 the other for ever; I know that
 what you have done to me, did
 proceed out of a great love
 you

you bore towards me, & as much
 as you love me, believe me I love
 you a great deal better. These
 and the like Discourses, sweet
 and flattering, attended by so
 many charms as was possible to
 be invented; were of that power
 as to impeach their resolution,
 they had of sending him to the
 other World. They still drank
 together, and the *Poland* Gen-
 tleman appeared the most con-
 tented Man of the World, for
 that by this means of flattery, he
 might escape the cruelty of their
 Hands. At last the night being
 come, *Flaminio* and *Erantbe* took
 their leave of the Fryer, went out
 of the Covent, entred the Coach,
 and returned to their Lodging,
 where the Knight thought to lye
 with the *Polander*. But he going
 out

out of the Coach, feigned as if he had gone to the house of Office, and from thence presently went to the Post house, where he demanded a Horse, and paying what was their due, without any Company, besides that of a Postillion, that very same hour went for *Rome*. He made so great haste, that he got to *Rome* the next Morning betimes. The same day Pope *Clement* the VII. gave publick audience to all the World. The *Poland* Gentleman, without going to the *Vatican*, enters the Hall, where the Holy Father did sit, and approaching to him, throws himself down at his Feet; demanding him to do Justice of an Affront the most horrid and execrable, as ever a mortal Man could have received.

d as moved. The good Pope, seeing
 of C such a brave Gentleman so dole-
 sent ful and crying; was taken with
 when pity, and would be informed
 I pay himself about the whole matter
 without touching his evil. Alas! Ho-
 t of Father, saith he, the subject
 hou of my Grief is so execrable, that
 de I have a horror to rehearse it
 Rom before you. Give me leave that
 The another, and not I my self, may
 VIII open it to your Holiness. The
 All the Pope being amazed at this News,
 gentle gave orders immediately to his
 e Recorder, to take a particular in-
 where formation of all the business.
 and ap He did the same, and after the
 him Gentleman had opened the
 nding whole progress of a most unchri-
 front stian action, he reported after-
 ble, as wards to the Pope, whatsoever
 ve re he had told him. The good Fa-
 eived ther

ther, having perceived, such an execrable forfeit ; was touch'd with so great a compassion, that a stream of Tears run down his Cheeks. After this he presently dispatch'd a Provost, with Soldiers, and with Pattent Letters, to make his address to the Vice-Roy, commanding him, under the guilt of Excommunication, to aid and assist him. The Provost in few days arriv'd to *Naples*, and the first thing he did, was to surprize *Flaminio*, who had taken a resolution to change his Lodgings the very same day, foreseeing very well what might in process of time happen to him. After this he went to the Covent, and entring shew'd the Letters of the Pope, and took the Fryer a Prisoner. The Vice-Roy begun to

ch at
 uched
 that
 n his
 ently
 Soldi
 rs, to
 Roy,
 the
 to
 ovost
 ples,
 as to
 d ta
 his
 fore-
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 him.
 ent,
 ters
 yer
 gun
 to

to make questions about the ta-
 king of *Flaminio*, because he was of
 a noble Lineage; but the People
 was of a mind, that such excellen-
 ces should not escape unpun-
 ished. At last he was taken,
 with his Accomplice, by the
 hands of the Provost who sent
 them for *Rome*. He caused them
 to be made fast at the Tower
 called *Nonne*, where they staid
 but a little while. Their pro-
 cess was quickly brought to an
 end, and they having confessed
 the Crime, they were conten-
 ted to die. The Knight, should
 have his Head cut off at the Bridg
 of *Angelo*; and his Body burned.
 And the Fryer, was to be han-
 ged, strangled, and burned. *E-*
ranthe alter he had seen them ex-
 ecuted, either for Shame or for
 E peni-

penitence of his committed guilt by reason of his assent, went his ways, and was never heard or seen after.

The horrible Excesses committed by a religious Woman, by the instigation of the Devil.

IN the Land of *Egypt*, is an Isle called *Meroe*, which the renowned River of *Nilus* maketh famous, A Country very pleasant and fertile, above all the rest of the Universe. The Inhabitants of the place are all Christians and very devout. But particularly there was a noble Family called *Abila*, very much praised for the continuance in the Catholick Religion. The chief

chief of this House espoused once
 a handiome and a wise Gentle-
 woman, of an illustrious Family
 of *Merala*. The Gentleman was
 called *Nicander*, and the Gentle-
 woman *Gallicia*. Out of their
 lawful Bed came forth six Sons,
 and ten Daughters. The Eldest
 of them called *Melissa*, was en-
 dowed with such an excellent
 Beauty, that she led Captive the
 Eyes of all them that saw her.
 Nature had accomplished her
 with all outward Perfections;
 insomuch, that she had scarce at-
 tained to the twelfth year of her
 age, but she was courted in or-
 der to Marriage, by an infinite
 number of Gentlemen, of the best
 degree of that Countrey. The
 Mother gave particular Ear to
 the pursuit of a brave Gentleman

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whose

whose Fame was very much renowned in the Country, and to him she had a singular Inclination; and he proceeded thus far, that she resolved to give him her Daughter in Marriage. The Wedding was celebrated with a Pomp fitting Persons of that degree and quality, and the newly-married Couple repair'd to a House of Pleasure in the Country, which they had of their Parents. But Fortune, which commonly delights in Inconstancy, would not permit *Melissa* should long enjoy the Embraces of her Husband; for he was kill'd when he was a hunting, by a mischance so strange, as is not to be express'd. When *Nicander* was inform'd of the death of his Son-in-Law, he took home again his Daughter

now

now being but in the thirteenth or fourteenth year of her age. This young Widow did grow up in Age, and in Beauty, from day to day; so that in a short time they discours'd of marrying her again: In the meantime the Father finding himself at a great charge, by reason of his great number of Children, was of a resolution (that so he might not prejudice the Lustre of his Name and Family) to send her into a Nunnery, with four of her Sisters, and three of his Sons. He thought he had made a good division amongst his Children, following the Laws of the *Abyssini*. The eldest, who was to keep up the Name and the Arms of the Family, was very glad of this his Fathers Resolution. And these

worldly Arguments, & humane Considerations, made him constrain the young Widow to enter an Abby of Dames called *Rockperfe*, which was founded by the Princess *Dorothie*, of the House of *Sitim*; Wife to the valiant Prince of *Saba*. This Abby, in one regard the grandeur of the Building, and the structure of the Temple, makes one to conclude, that the Foundation and the Revenues do answer the Manificence of the Founder. The young Widow was not yet fourteen years of age, when she was carried thither among the Nuns, not without a desire remaining in her towards the World, and an inclination to the things Earthly more than to the Celestial. She loved to smug up her self, and to dress

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dress her self finely; her eyes were loolè, and bent every where; and one might judge by her Countenance, that a Life separated from the company of Men did not at all please her.

Oftentimes she resolved to quit all Conversation, and to keep her self close in her Chamber, to practise in the same a strict and austere Life. Being at last turned a Nun, according to their Formalities, she did nothing but cry and sigh. She accused the cruelty of her Father and Mother, that had forced her to a Life so contrary to her mind. After she had spent two or three years, without endeavouring to learn either to read or to write, see, the most pleasant thing of the World began to present it self be-

fore her eyes, impudent Love was now in action to intrude it self into her Soul. Her Imaginations were assaulted with Concupiscence; and if she had had any means to accomplish her desires, she had done it, without any regard to the House she issued from, or consideration of her own Honour.

The Devil, who is always in action, and who, like a roaring Lion, doth on all occasions environ us, that he may devour us, seeing her inclined to carnal desires, kindled in her that desire more and more, insomuch that she, instead of saying her Prayers, did think upon nothing else but Love. This Passion still continuing, and she exercising many filthy Pollutions upon her Body
both

both asleep and awake, the Devil appeared once to her, when she was retired all alone by her self in her Chamber, for the entertaining of her impudent and lascivious Pleasures. This evil Spirit (by the permission of God) did appear in the shape of an Angel of Life, having on Apparel as white as Snow.

God save you, handsom *Melissa*, (says the Adversary) It is a long time since the sense of your Evil did touch me with a great deal of compassion, and that your Beauty hath ravished my heart. I am come to you with an intention to satisfy your desire, and to serve you in whatsoever you command, if you will be pleas'd to accept me for your Servant.

Melissa being astonish'd at the
 E. 5 very.

very thoughts of this Apparition, was in a great fear; but being a little come to her self, she demanded of this Spirit, that had the outward appearance of a Man, who he was. Satan, who cannot hide himself, when he is demanded to tell his Name, answered her thus; I am the King of the Air; all that shall fall out to you by my means, cannot be comprehended: I am more pleasant than ever you can believe. Ask me whatever you please, and I shall give you sufficient Answers thereto,

This unhappy Gentlewoman giving ear to these Inchantments of that Syren, suffer'd her self to be entangled with his Charms; insomuch that after some Contestations, which I am not willing
to

ariti- to write, she agreed with the
 t be Devil; and, amongst the rest,
 she she would be the wisest, and the
 had best spoken of all the Religious
 of a Sisters; and that she might sing
 who the best of them all. So the ma-
 he is lignant Spirit, in that shape we
 an- spoke of before, did dwell with
 King her carnally, and did not omit a
 out day wherein he had not seen her,
 ot be sometimes in one form, some-
 plea- times in another, often in a Pigs,
 ve. or other detestable shapes. Her
 and Companions were greatly asto-
 An- nish'd, to observe in her a great
 and wonderful change. She that
 nan could neither read nor write
 ents eight or nine days ago, became
 f to in an instant able to read, write,
 ns; and speak well, about all sorts of
 te- Histories. They admir'd her In-
 ng genuity, and took her for a Mi-
 to racle.

racle. So that she did every day paint and dress her self above what their Order did permit.

Her Discourses were full of vanity and worldly matters, and of lascivious practises. In stead of their Hours (so is their Prayer-Book called) she always had in her hand some Book or other treating of disorderly Love. Some good Nuns did reprove her, shewing her how these things were unworthy of her Profession; but she did nothing but laugh at them, and mock them. Those that were with her of her most familiar Friends, heard nothing else coming out of her mouth, besides vain and dissolute Discourses. She prais'd her self, to have acquir'd within these few days a Gallant, who came

came to see her every night, and
 taught her the Art of Speaking
 eloquently. They reported this
 to the Abbess, who not being able
 to apprehend the meaning of it,
 caus'd immediately all her Acti-
 ons to be taken notice of, and
 made her lie with Company.
 When she saw her self kept so
 close, she made her complaints to
 her Gallant, who induced her
 to revenge her self, and to set
 the Covent on fire. The Enemy
 gave her the Fire his own self,
 and assisted her to begin at the
 fairest place of all the Lodgings
 in the Abby. The Fire did take,
 and before any one could per-
 ceive it, it spread it self from
 Chamber to Chamber, and de-
 stroyed that brave Edifice from
 the Court to the Temple, whi-
 ther

ther all the Nuns repaired, as to a place of a holy refuge. But O deplorable case! as soon as this incendiary went out of a corner,—— The flame went on with such a violence, that almost in less then a moment, that elegant, and magnificent structure, together with the Cloysters, Chapters, Refectories, and Dormitories, were brought to dust and ashes. The poor Nuns were glad to save themselves, and leave all the rest to the mercy of the Flames. Afterwards they were dispersed, from one place to another and beg'd every where some assistance for the restauration of their edifice, which will never be so as it was before, unless some Royal hand should extend its liberality.

After

After this enraged Gentlewoman had asswaged her desire of revenge, her Parents shut her up in another Monastery, full of Piety and Devotion. After her accustomed insolency, her filthy discourses, and the Lecture she ordinary had in her lascivious Books, forced some devouter Nunns of that Covent, to reprove her for her loose behaviour. They always set her vanity before her Eyes, and endeavoured to make her sensible of the fear of God, and of due obedience; but it was only labour lost. Instead of being beholden to them, because of this good and holy advice, she by the means of Satan that lay with her, made to dy three of the Religious Women,
of

of a sudden death. All the rest being amazed at their death and fearing the same danger, and mischief, presented a Petition to the Sovereign Prince of *Mere* desiring him most humbly, that they instantly might be delivered from this plague. The King having understood the deportment of that young Woman, commanded that they should send her back again to *Abila*, that is to her Father and Mother, who could not believe what they reported of their Daughter; and had a great feeling of sorrow and heaviness in their hearts. They had her a while always in their Eye, but afterwards thinking it was no action of people fearing God, to make no conscience of keeping in the world a profes-

fed

ed person, they resolved to
 build and found in one of
 their lands, a little Abby, to
 put in there *Melissa*. His Ma-
 jesty himself promised to con-
 tribute towards the doing
 of this Abby, a thousand
 pounds, While the Abby was a
 building, My Lord, and my
 Lady *Abila* observed their
 Daughter in a more strict man-
 ner then before. They made
 her ly in a Chamber next to
 theirs, and gave her a Gentle-
 woman of a good age and beha-
 viour to attend her : The
 mischievous young Lady, turn'd
 her out of her Chamber, with
 a deal of injurie, saying, it was
 impossible for her to rest, if she
 was not by her self. Those that
 had their Ears bent to her acti-
 ons

ons, hearing her talking in the
 night time, without knowing
 to who. An inarticulate voice
 gave her answer, and an intelli-
 gence of all things the demanded.
 This was told to her Father and
 Mother, who could not as yet
 give credit to these reports, but
 once of a sudden entred into her
 Chamber for to surprize her. But
 hainous and most horrible case!
 They perceive presently a Pig
 rolling upon the Belly of their
 execrable Daughter. My intenti-
 on is not to write at large of it,
 whether this vision was true, or
 illusory. My Lord *Abila* puts
 out his hand to catch him, he
 appeared to run from one side of
Melissa to the other, at last dis-
 appeared with the great ad-
 miration of the Beholders, and
 to the great grief of her Fa-
 ther

her, but especially of the Mother,
 who having abandoned all patience
 and crying grievously, began to
 speak these sad and pitious words.

O cursed and execrable birth,
 was it so that a House so illustri-
 ous, and so renowned at all times
 for its piety, should now be disho-
 noured, by thy horrible deeds? O
 good God? is that the instruction,
 I gave thee in thy tender days,
 that you should make your self ac-
 quainted with the Enemy of our
 salvation? When thou madest pro-
 fession, and was inclosed in the
 Cloyster, didst not thou renounce,
 the World, Devil and Flesh, and
 wert not thou espoused to him, who
 shed his precious blood, upon the Tree
 of the Crojs, to redeem us from
 Eternal Death? And now ha-
 ving broken thy Vows, and not kept
 the Faith, which thou gavest to
 thy

thy Bridegroom, madest thy self acquainted with the Prince of darkness? Will it not be said, that my Belly hath born a Sockerer. Had my death shall end my days, before I should hear any speaking of such scandal. Recommend thyself to God. O thou miserable wretch that thou art; beseech his goodness, that he may deliver thee from this evil, and go to the holy Sacrament which he hath instituted in his Church, take up armes to overcome the Enemy of man-kind. May be the Son of God shall assist thee, and receive thee into his mercy.

Such and the like Complaints and Reproofs, went out of the Mouth of that virtuous, and never worthily praised—Madam of Abila; when her abominable Daughter in the mean time being possesst

possessed by the Devil, did no-
 thing but laugh, and mock at her
 Mothers Words. And what then,
 answered she, is it such a great
 matter to see Satan in love with
 a young Gentlewoman? Is it a
 thing so rare as that it never hap-
 pened in the World? Doth it ne-
 cessarily follow, that because I
 talk with a Spirit, I gave my self
 over to him. *Socrates*, who was
 the greatest Man of the past A-
 ges, and who by the testimony
 of the Oracle was esteemed the
 wisest; had not he a Demon to
 consult withal? was he therefore
 a Sorcerer or a Conjuror? I do
 not know why you make so
 great a noise, about a thing so
 common as this is. And what
 will you say if I be of those Wo-
 men, for the number is infinite,
 that

that pays homage to the most abominable parts of a stinking and infected Goat. No no, Satan hath no power over me. The Spirit that visits me every Night is a good Demon, who giveth me advise in all things I am to do. If you do vex or provoke him you'll quickly feel his Wrath and Vengeance. The Father and Mother, after they had made Remonstrances, seeing, to their great Grief, that they but lost their labour, resolved to lock her up in a Dungeon, if she would not be otherwise, and to make her die miserably. Moreover, they gave her attendance more then usual, whereat she was tormented with spite, and gave all bad Language to the Gentlemen, that were about her, that

in

In short it was a wonder to be-
 hold her. In the mean time it
 fell out that the Lord *Abila* made
 a Voyage, because of some Affairs,
 concerning the Government, he
 had of the City of *Mavia*. He
 intended but to go and to come
 again for that he might give Or-
 ders about that evil he left in his
 House. When he was departed,
 the good and vertuous Lady, her
 Motner, was always near her
 Daughter. She incessantly re-
 presented to her the Justice and
 the Love of God, invited her to
 confess her Sin, and to beg Mer-
 cy for her Faults, all this time
 this Wretch bore with great im-
 patience their holy admonitions,
 but yet a great deal worse, the
 Guards which were at the night
 time about her, because they
 hin-

hindred her from conversing freely with her beloved. At last she not willing any longer to hear those holy discourses of the Lady her Mother, endowed with Piety and Religion, without regard or respect, which we owe to them who brought us forth into the World, the detestable Daughter, by the instigation of the Devil, who already had an intire Possession of her, attempted the most horrid deed that can be imagined, against which the great Lawgiver *Solon*, would discern no Punishment, because he could not perswade himself, that a crime of that nature could be committed by the hands of Men. It was about eleven a Clock at Night, when the darkness cloatheth all things with silence, when
 this

this infernal Fury, rose out of
 her Bed she lay in, and going out
 of her Chamber entred into her
 Mothers Chamber, who was in a
 fast sleep upon her chaste and in-
 nocent Bed, the youngest Son
 of the six, of about five or six
 years of age, was lying at her
 side. The Paricide with a great
 and large Knife, drew near to the
 Bed, and so promptly cuts the
 Throat of her, from whom she
 had received Life, that the poor
 Gentlewoman could not as much
 as cry out. An old Gentlewo-
 man lay next to her, who having
 leap'd out of the Bed, runs hasti-
 ly towards her Mistress, and
 finding her weltring in her own
 Blood, flang open the Window
 of her Chamber, and began to
 cry out for help. The Dome-

sticks of the Castle, came hastily
 to see what it was, and amongst
 the rest, the eldest Son of the
 House, who perceiving this sad
 and lamentable Spectacle, imme-
 diately fell down, and swooned
 away. Having recovered his
 Spirits, he runs to the next
 Chamber, & catches up a Sword,
 to revenge upon this execrable
 Woman the Death of so good a
 Mother: And he had undoubt-
 edly done it, had he not been
 prevented by some, that were
 thereabouts, who, laid open to
 him, That in a matter of such
 consequence the common course
 of Law was to be taken, and not
 a private Revenge to be used;
 and therefore they forced the
 Sword out of his hand. Never-
 theless, the grief which he con-
 ceived

ly received at this sad accident, made him vomit out many reproachful Words against the Murthe-
 ress, and put in him so great a desire of Revenge, that he could not be hindred from beating her with his Fists, and disfiguring her Face with his Nails; and if they had not drawn her away, he had certainly strangled her. This Wretch was presently secured by a Safe-guard, expecting the coming of the doleful Father, who came two or three days after. But who can sufficiently express his grief! to find so sweet a Companion, with whom he had lived so long in peace and quietness, bereaved of Life by her to whom she gave it. *O Lord* (said the sorrowful Gentleman) *I must needs have greatly*

offended you, for that you permit
 so many mischiefs to fall out in my
 House. I beseech you, O Lord, to
 appease your wrath, or else to exer-
 cise your vengeance upon my blame-
 worthy head. Alas, my poor wife!
 How comes it that I had so little
 wisdom, to leave you here alone,
 without advising with my self about
 the cruel Designs of this Infernal
 Fury? If I had been here, per-
 adventure this execrable Wretch
 had turned her hands upon me,
 and my death had been a safeguard
 for your life, for the love of which,
 I would have sacrificed my own a
 thousand times. O cruel Viper!
 what Punishment can one invent,
 which should be answerable to thy
 unnatural deserts? Thus this
 good Gentleman lamented, aban-
 doning all patience and modera-
 tion,

tion, and giving himself wholly over to his grief. He desembled a just and innocent *Job*, who, notwithstanding his cruel and extreme Afflictions, did neither curse his Creator, nor murmur against Heaven. So the true Servants of God patiently suffer Adversitie, order'd for them by the same Providence by which they receive their Wealth and Prosperity.

Afterwards he caused his execrable Daughter to be enclosed betwixt four Walls, and a true Information to be taken of the horrid Crime by her committed. The Process being made, he went to the King of *Meroe*, and to his Privy Council, to desire they would give Orders to execute Justice. His Majesty, having

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thorowly weigh'd the whole matter, and finding that neither Fire nor Sword, nor any other Punishment, could expiate the greatness of the Crime, sentenced the young Woman to die such death as her Father would inflict upon her, giving him power either to augment or to lessen the Torments according to his pleasure.

As soon as ever she was condemned, the Evil Spirit advertised her that she should neither eat nor drink any thing, but what they that brought it to her should taste before hand : And so persisting in her Wickedness, & threatening to kill her Father and Brother, at last she died miserably, either by Poyson, or by starving her self to death.

*An abominable Cruelty of a Fryer,
committed for the accomplishing
of his detestable Leckery, and
the ensuing Punishment for it.*

IN the Dominions of the Em-
perour *Maximilianus* of *Au-*
stria, was a Convent of Fryers,
of great esteem, near unto which
a Gentleman of Quality had his
House. This, had such a great
kindness for these Religious Per-
sons, that for their sake and Ser-
vice, nothing was so dear to him,
but he would have parted with
it, thereby to have a part in their
good works, fasting, and cha-
ritizings of themselves. And
amongst the rest there was a lu-
tly and well shaped Fryer, whom

the Gentleman chose for his Father Confessor. Which had so much Power to command in the Gentlemans House, as the Gentleman himself. This Fryer seeing the Gentlemans Lady very handsome and wise, so that she had but very few for her equals, fell in love with her so far, that he could neither eat nor drink, and was bereaved of his natural reason. One day, being determined to execute his Intention, did go all alone to the Gentlemans House, and not having found him, ask'd the Gentlewoman whither he was gone. She answered him that he was gone to one of his Lands, where he was to stay, two or three days; nevertheless if he had any business with him, she would send

an

an exprefs to him. He ſaid no,
 he had none: And began to walk
 up and down the Houſe, as one
 that had ſome buſineſs of Im-
 portance in his head. And after
 he had departed out of the Cham-
 ber, ſhe ſaid to one of her Maids
 (there being but two of them.)
 Goe after the good Father, and
 ſee whither he goeth, for me
 thinks he looks as if he was diſ-
 contented. The Chambermaid
 went into the Court, aſking him
 if he would have any thing. Yes,
 answered the Fryer, and drawing
 her into a Corner takes out a
 Ponyard, which he had in his
 Sleeve, and with that cut her
 Throat. Juſt when he had done
 the miſchief, comes in into the
 ſame Court, one of this Gen-
 tlemans Servants, on Horſback,

bringing the Tents of a Farm. As soon as he had lighted, the Fryer runs to him, who in Embracing him, cuts his Throat from behind, and shuts the Door of the Castle after him. The Gentlewoman, seeing her Chambermaid did not come again, did admire why she staid so long with the Fryer; and said to her other Chambermaid; Go and see what's the matter that your Comerade doth not come again. The Chambermaid goeth to him, whom as soon as he perceived, taketh her by the hand, and draws her into a Corner, and doeth the same to her as he did to the other. At last, seeing himself to be all alone in the House, he went to the Gentlewoman, telling her how he a long time ago

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ago had been in love with her,
 and that the hour was come,
 wherein she must obey him. She
 who never thought such a thing
 should come to pass, said to him,
 Good Father, I did not believe I
 should have had so bad an Inclina-
 tion as this, that you would
 throw the first stone at me your
 own self. The Fryer told her,
 go into the Court and you shall
 see what I have done. When she
 saw both her Chambermaids and
 her Foot Man dead, she was so
 highly taken with fear, that she
 stood like a stock unmoveable.
 Presently the mischievous Man,
 that would not have her only
 for an hours pleasure, would not
 take her by force, but said to her,
Madam, be not afraid, you are
 in the hands of a Man, who lo-
 veth

veth and esteemeth you above
 all the World. Saying thus, he
 pull'd off his large Habit, under-
 neath the which he had one a deal
 lesser, which he presented to the
 Lady, saying to her, that if she
 would not take it, he would put
 her amongst the number of the
 Dead, which she saw before her
 eyes. The Gentlewoman more
 dead than alive, resolved to dis-
 semble that she would obey him
 to save her life, as well as to
 gain some time, by which
 she hoped her Husband would
 come again. And by the Com-
 mandment of this aforesaid Fry-
 er began to undress her self as ea-
 sily as ever she could. And when
 she was come to her Hair, the
 Fryer not regarding the beauty
 it had, cut it off, very hastily
 and

and that being done, he made her to unstrip her self to the very Smock, and to put on that little habit, which he had brought underneath his usual one, and as hastily as he could, departed from their House, carrying along with him, his petty Fryer, for whom he had long'd so much. But the Lord, who hath Compassion on the Innocent in the day of their trouble, did look upon the Tears of this doleful Gentlewoman, in so much that her Husband having dispatcht his business sooner than he thought or told to any, was returning by the same Path, where his Wife was going over. The Fryer perceiving him a far off, said to the Gentlewoman it is your Husband that I see a coming there. I know.

know if he should see you, he would take you by force out of my hands, therefore goe a little before me, and do not turn your head here nor there ; for if you should make the least Sign, or Wink, my Ponyard shall be immediately at your Throat, and there shall be no body able to deliver you out of my hands. When they were thus talking the Gentleman was nigh to him, and ask'd him from whence he came. He answered him, from your House, where I left the Madam, your Wife, in a good health, waiting for your coming home. The Gentleman did go on in his way, without any perceiving of his Wife. But the Servant that was with him, who always used to entertain the Fryers Companion,

nion,

. he ion, called *Fryer John*, began
 t o talk to his Mistriss, thinking
 ttle he was *Fryer John*. The poor
 our Gentlewoman, who durst not
 you turn her Head towards her Hus-
 or band, answered him nothing at
 im all, but the Footman to see
 and the Face, lifted up the broad
 de Cape, when the Gentlewoman,
 ds. speaking not one word to him,
 the made some Signs with her Eyes,
 nd full of Mourning and Tears.
 ae. The Footman riding behind his
 ur Master, said to him thus; Sir,
 n, by lifting up the Cape of the Fa-
 h. thers Comerade, I perceived it
 e. was not *Fryer John*, but was like
 is my Mistriss, your Wife, who
 of did cast a piteous look upon me,
 t with an eye full of Tears. The
 d Gentleman answered him, he was
 out of his Wits, and knew not
 what

what he said. But the Foot-man persisting in his Sayings, desired the Gentleman to give him leave to pursue them, and to see whether what he saw under the Cape was that he thought to be. The Gentleman gave his consent to it, and staid there to see what news his Foot-man should bring him back. But when the Fryer heard some body behind him, calling, *Father John*, doubting the Gentlewoman had been known, came towards the Foot-man with a great stick set about with Iron, which he had in his hand, and gave so hard a batt upon his short Ribs, that he struck him off the Horse, down to the ground. And immediately falling upon him, cut his Throat: The Gentleman who from

t-man from far off saw his Man dismount-
 esired ed, thinking he had tumbled
 leave down by some misfortune or
 whe other, run presently after him
 Cape to help him. And as soon as
 The the Fryer saw him, he gave him
 t to a like blow with his Stick, as he
 what had done to his Foot-man, and
 ring pulling him down off his Horse,
 yer threw himself upon him ; but
 im, the Gentleman being a stro' g
 ing and an able Man, took hold of
 een the Fryer in that manner, that
 ot- he left him no power whereby he
 out might hurt him, and made
 his the Ponyard to fall out of his
 tt hand, which the Gentlewoman
 he presently took up, and gave it
 n to her Husband, and with all
 i- her force took the Fryer by his
 is hair, her Husband giving him
 o in the mean time, several Stabs
 n with

with the Ponyard, in so much that he beg'd Pardon, and confessed to him all the truth of his Wickedness. The Gentleman would not kill him; but desired his Wife, to go to their House, and to look for some of his Servants, and that they might bring thither a Chariot, which she did. And afterwards, having stript her self of her Habits, run in her Smock only, to her House. Immediately all the Servants run to assist their Master, and to see what Prey he had got, and they found him in that same Net wherein he was catcht, and so carried him to the Gentlemans House, who afterwards sent him to the Justice of the Emperour, into *Flanders*, where he pleaded Guilty, discovering his Wicked

In-

Intention : And it was found out by the Commissaries about him, and confirmed by his own Confession, that there was brought into that Monastery (which he was of) a great number of Noble Dames, and other Beautiful Gentlewomen by that same means, by which this Fryer would have brought in this our Gentlewoman, whom the Lord delivered out of his great Mercy, who alwaies gives aid and assistance to them that relie upon him. After this, the Monastery was deprived of all its Ornaments and Revenews, and the Monks that were within, together with the Gentlewomen, and the Covent, were all burned to Ashes for perpetual Memory of the committed Crime.

Two

*Two Fryers, the first Night of
 Wedding, takes one after the
 other in the place of the Bride
 groom, and afterwards were se
 verely paid for it.*

IN a Town of *France*, in the
 Country of *Perigords*, in an
 Inn-keepers House was a Wed-
 ding of a Daughter of theirs,
 where all their Friends and Re-
 lations, endeavoured to give the
 best Treat that ever they could,
 During the time of the Feast,
 two Fryers came thither, to
 whom the Supper was made rea-
 dy in their Chamber, for it is
 not their Fashion or Duty to be
 present at Wedding Feasts. But
 the principal of these two, who
 had

and more authority and cunning,
 began to bethink himself as soon
 as he did rise from the Table,
 how to be a Partaker of this
 new Bride-grooms Bed, and to
 put a trick upon him. When
 the Evening was come, and the
 people began to Dance, one of
 the Fryers look'd out of the Win-
 dow and for a long time beheld
 the Bride, whom he saw to be
 very Beautiful, and for his Tooth.
 And narrowly inquiring of the
 Chamberlain where the Room
 was, where she was to lie,
 found that it was next to his own,
 whether he did go in very easi-
 ly, using the best means in the
 World for the accomplishing his
 desire. He saw the Bride undrest,
 by some Old Women that were
 with her, as the custom is there.
 And

And because it was yet pretty early, the Bride-groom would not leave off his Dancing, but was so merry and Courteous, that he disssembled as if he had forgotten his new Spouse. The Fryer had as yet done nothing, but presently perceiving that the Young Bride was a sleep, he took off his hairy Apparel, and went to take the room of her Husband: Howsoever he did not tarry long for fear of being Surprized, and therefore did presently go out towards the Mouth of an Entry, where his Fellow Fryer was, all that time keeping watch for him, who gave him Intelligence by some sign or other, that the Bride-groom was a Dancing still. The Fryer who had not as yet quenched

quenched his filthy desires retur-
 ed again to go to Bed to this
 new Married Bride, and staid
 here so long until his Compani-
 on had given him notice, that it
 was time to depart. The Bride-
 room came to Bed, whose Wife,
 that had been Tormented so cru-
 elly by the Fryer, that she desi-
 red nothing but rest, could not
 bear speaking thus to him;
 did you resolved not to sleep to-
 night at all, and to do nothing
 but Torment me all the while?
 the poor Husband, who was
 newly come, was greatly
 amazed and perplexed at her
 words, and therefore ask'd her
 what Displeasure, or what Tor-
 ment she had done to her, being
 that had not parted from the Dance
 yet just now. It is well Danced,
 faith

saith the poor Young Woman, it is the third time you are come to Bed, I think it should be better for you, for to go to sleep. The Husband hearing this Proposition, was greatly astonished and left off all other things to search out the bottom of the whole matter. And when she was relating the same to him, he smell'd out, that it were the Fryers that lay there, and rising out of his Bed immediately, goes to their Chamber, which was next to his. And when he did not find them, he began to cry for aid and assistance, so loud that all the Guest that were Assembled there came running toward him, who after they had understood the matter, did assist him with Candles, Lanthorns, and with

with all the Dogs in the Town,
 to find out the Fryers. And
 when they could not find them
 in the House, they made so great
 Diligence in searching for them
 that they found them in the
 Vineyard, and Treated them
 according to what they deser-
 ved. For after they had beaten
 them fearfully, they cut off
 their Legs and Arms, and left
 them in the Vineyard, under the
 Protection of God *Bacchus*, and
 Goddess *Venus*, whose better
 Disciples they were than of St.
Francis their Patriarch.

*Three several Murthers committed
in one House, viz. upon the Ma-
ster, his Wife, and their Child
by the Lust of a Monk.*

IN the Country of *Perigord* in
France there was a Gentle-
man who was so devout to *Saint*
Francis, that he thought every
body who did wear his Habit to
be like him, He did honour so
much that Saint, that, the better
to shew his Devotion towards
him, he kept in his own House
Chambers fit to lodge those of
that Order; and by them he
govern'd all his Affairs, thinking
to wak surely, as long as he fol-
lowed their Advices.

It hapned one day, that the
Wife of the said Gentleman, who
was

was very handſom, & both wiſe and godly, was brought to bed of a fine Boy ; at which the ſaid Gentleman being over-joy'd, and to ſhew his kindneſs and love towards his dear Wife, ſent for his Brother in Law, and ſome other Friends, and deſired them to come and ſup and be merry with him. Whiſt they were at Supper, came in a Monk, his Ghoſtly Father, (from whom he did hide nothing) of which the Gentleman was very glad. After ſeveral Diſcourſes between his Wife, his Brother, and the reſt of the Company, they ſate down to Supper, and when they were eating and drinking, the Gentleman looking upon his Wife, who was beautiful enough to be deſired. made this Queſtion to his Ghoſt-

My Father: *Father, saith he, is it true, that a man sins mortally if he lies with his Wife whilst she lies in?* The Ghostly Father, who was bound to return an Answer, said, *It is so; and I think it is one of the greatest sins which is committed in Marriage: and we have for example the Blessed Virgin, who would not enter into the Temple but after her Purification, though she had no need of it: And according to that Example you are to abstain from a small pleasure, seeing the Blessed Virgin, to obey the Law, did abstain from going to the Temple, where was all her Consolation: And besides, the Physicians say, That there is great danger for the Children who are conceived at that time*

When the Gentleman heard this,

this, he was sorry at his heart; for he had hopes his Ghostly Father would have given him leave to lye with her: but he held his tongue, and said no more. The Ghostly Father, after he had drank a little too largely, looked upon the Lady, and thought in himself, that if he were her Husband, he would ask counsel of no body to lie with his Wife: and as Fire encreases by little and little, until it inflames the whole House, so this poor Fryer began to burn within with the Fire of Concupiscence, so that he suddenly resolved to accomplish the Desire that he had stifled in his heart for three or four years past. After they rose up from the Table, he took the Gentleman by the hand, and leading him to the

Bed where his Wife was, said thus.
*Sir, because I am certain of the great
 kindness you have for your Wife,
 and because, being young, you can
 hardly keep you from lying with her,
 therefore I have pity upon you, and
 I will tell you a Secret of our Holy
 Divinity; The Law, which is very
 strict towards indiscreet Husbands,
 will not permit that those who are
 godly and innocent, as you are, be
 deprived of its Intelligence: There-
 fore, Sir, I told you publickly the
 severity of the Law; but from you,
 who are wise, I must not hide the
 sweetness of it. You must know, that
 as all Women are not alike, so nei-
 ther are all Men; you must there-
 fore enquire of your Wife, since she
 has been brought to bed these three
 weeks, whether she is clean from
 her Impurity. To which the La-
 dy*

thus, *My answered, That certainly she*
was. Then, said the Fryer, I give
you leave to lie with her without
my scruple, provided you promise
me two things. Which the Gen-
tleman did willingly. First, said
the Ghostly Father, you shall come
to her secretly, and speak with no
body. Secondly, you shall not come
till after Two in the morning, that
the Ladies Digestion may not be
hindred by your Company. Both
which the Gentleman did pro-
mise, with such an Oath, that he,
who knew him to be more Fool
than Liar, was certain he would
keep his promise.

Afterwards the Ghostly Fa-
 ther withdrew himself into his
 Chamber, bidding them Good-
 night: And in going away, he
 took the Gentleman by the
 G 4 hand,

hand. saying, *Without fail, Sin*
you will come, and make no longer
stay than what you promised? The
 Gentleman taking his leave of
 his Wife, and killing her, said a-
 loud, *My Dear, let the door be left*
open: (which words the Ghost-
 ly Father took notice of) and so
 went into his Chamber. But
 when the Ghostly Father was in
 his Chamber, he could not rest
 for thinking on the Lady; but
 as soon as they were all gone to
 bed, and he heard no noise in the
 House, he went directly to the
 Chamber where the Husband
 was expected, and finding the
 door open, went cunningly to
 put out the Candle, and so pre-
 sently to bed to her, without
 speaking. The Lady, thinking
 it was her Husband, said thus;
Husband,

Sin Husband, you have not been as
 good as your word; for you did
 The promise to our Ghostly Father, not
 to be here before Two in the morn-
 ing. The Fryer being more at-
 tentive to Action than to Con-
 versation, and fearing to be
 discovered, thought more upon
 the satisfaction of his wicked de-
 sire, than to give her any An-
 swer; and as the fury of his Lust
 did hinder him from sleeping, so
 the fear which followeth after
 wickedness did not permit him
 to take any rest; but he went
 presently to the Porter, and
 spoke to him thus; *Dear friend,*
your Master bid me to return imme-
diately into our Covent; to pray for
him, for some particular business
known to him onely; therefore give
me my Horse, and open me the door,

and say nothing to any body, for it must be very certain. The Porter, knowing well that to obey the Fryer, was to render an agreeable Service to his Master, opened him the doors, and let him go.

About this time did the Gentleman did awake, and seeing the hour was come, appointed by his Ghostly Father, to go to bed to his Wife, he rose up, and put on his Night-gown, and went to lie where (without any Mansleave) by the Ordinance of God he lawfully might. And when his Wife heard him speaking to her, being ignorant of what hapned before, she did so much wonder, that she spoke to him in such terms as these: *Is this the promise you made to our Ghostly Father,*

ther,

her, to have such a care of your
 Health and mine, that you came
 not onely before the hour appointed,
 but also you return again? Pray,
 Sir, think upon it. The Gentle-
 man was in such a trouble at the
 hearing of this News, that he
 could not hide his grief any long-
 er, and said to her, *What is this*
you tell me? I know for a certain
truth, that these three Weeks past
I have not lain with you, and now
you chide me for coming too often;
if you continue this Discourse, you
will make me believe that I dis-
please you, and will force me, a-
gainst my custom and inclination, to
seek for that satisfaction with other
Women that lawfully I ought to
have from you. The Lady, who
 thought he spoke but in jest, re-
 plied, Sir, *in thinking to deceive*
me,

me, do not cheat your self, for though you spoke not a word, when you came to me, yet I knew very well that you were here. Than the Gentleman knew that they were both deceived, and took his Oath that he came not to her before. For which the Lady took such sorrow, that with abundance of Tears she intreated him to inquire diligently how it might be, for there was no body in the House but her Brother and the Fryer, immediately the Gentleman suspected the Fryer, and went hastily into the Chamber where he had lodged, the which he found empty, and to be more assured of his Flight, sent for the Porter, of whom he demanded if he knew what was become of the Fryer, who told him the whole truth,
and

and the Gentleman being certain of what had past, returned immediately to his Wifes Chamber, and said to her. *My Dear, he that hath lain with you, and done many fine works, is our Father Confessor.* The Lady which all her Life before had kept her Honour, was in such a despair, that she beg'd him on her Knees to Revenge this great injury. The Gentleman taking Horse, pursued the Fryer, the Lady being left mourning all alone in her Bed, without any comfort, or counsel her, but her little new born Infant; than considering the horrible condition into which she was come, without excusing her ignorance, thought her self as if she was guilty, and the most miserable Creature in the World; and thinking
on :

on the love of her Husband, and the Honour of her Relations, which must need suffer, she esteemed Death more happy than her Life, so that being transported with Fury, forgetting the knowledge of God, she took her Bed Cord, and with her own hands strangled her self; and which is worse, being in the Agony of this Cruel death, struck with her Foot on the face of the Child, and so killed it; but dying made such a noise, that a Woman lying in the Chamber, rose up hastily to light a Candle and seeing her Mistress Strangled with the Bed Cord, and the little Infant lying dead under her foot, she ran in great hast into the Chamber of her Mistresses Brother, whom she brought to see this

this sad Spectacle, her Brother weeping, and very much lamenting this sad Accident, he being one that lov'd his Sister dearly, demanded of the Maid, who had Committed this Crime, who answered she knew not, and that none but her Master had been in the Chamber, who was just gone out ; upon which he went into his Chamber, and not finding him there, believed surely he had Committed this Horrible and Vilanous Crime, took his Horse without any other Inquiry to ride after him, and hit on the way where he met his Brother returning from the Pursuit of the Fryer, as soon as he saw his Brother in Law, he spake thus, *Cursed Coward, as thou art defend thy self, this Day I hope God will Revenge me*

me on thee by my Sword; The Gentleman would have excused himself, but seeing his Brothers Sword drawn, thought it fitter to defend himself, than to inquire the cause of the difference: Whereupon so many Blows past between them, that with expence of Blood, they were forced for some time to part for Respiration, and then the Gentleman began to inquire the cause of their difference, and what was the cause of this great Combat. *But what occasion had you* (answered his Brother in Law) *to put to death my dear Sister, the best Wife that ever Lived, and so Barbarously, that under a colour of going to Bed with her, you Strangled her with the Bed Cord,* the Gentleman hearing these Words, being almost

most dead with Grief, said to his Brother, *is it possible that you have found your Sister in such a condition?* And when his Brother had assured him of the truth thereof, *Pray* (quoth the Gentleman) *bear the cause wherefore I left the House,* and when he began to tell him the whole Story of the Fryer; Whereupon being very much astonish'd and extreamly Sorry, he had thus rashly fought his Brother, and humbly begging his Pardon said, *I have wrong'd you, I beseech your Pardon,* the Gentleman Replied, *If I have wrong'd you, you have sufficiently punished me, for I am so wounded that I believe I shall hardly escape death,* whereupon his Brother helping him upon his Horse, brought him home, where the
next

next day he died, confessing before all his Kindred and Friends, that the Fryer was the cause of all their Deaths.

The Abomination of a Priest, who got his own Sister with Child, under a colour of Piety, and how they were both punish'd.

CHARLES Earl of Angoulesme, Father of King Francis the first, a very honest Prince, and fearing God; when he was at *Coignac* (a small Town in *France*) some body told him, that in a Country Town hard by, there was a Virgin, who did live with so great an Austerity, that she was the Wonder of all People, and notwithstanding was found big with Child, and did confess it to every Body, testify-
ing

ing that she never knew any
 man, and could not tell how it
 came that she was big with Child,
 unless it were by the operation
 of the Holy Ghost; and the Peo-
 ple did believe her, because they
 thought her to be an other blef-
 sed Virgin *Mary*: For every Bo-
 dy knew, that she was always
 modest and wise, that never
 appeared in her any sign of Vani-
 ty. She not only did Fast upon
 the days commanded by the
 Church, but also upon several o-
 ther Days in the Week, meerly
 for Devotion: and as long as they
 were praying and singing in the
 Church, she was there always,
 therefore she was esteemed so
 highly by the common People,
 that every Body came to see her
 as a Miracle, and thought them-
 selves

selves very happy if they could
 but touch her Peticoat. Her
 Brother was the Curate of the
 Parish, being a Man of middle
 age, who did live according to
 outward appearance religiously
 and was esteemed by all for a
 godly Man, and speaking to his
 Sister severely, he caused her to
 be put in Prison: that was soon
 spread abroad and came to the
 Ears of the aforementioned Earl
 who seeing how much every Bo-
 dy was deceived, desired to dis-
 cover the truth; therefore he
 sent two Gentlemen, who were
 counted very godly and prudent,
 to find out the cheat; they went
 to the said Curate, and enquired
 as diligently as they could about
 that business; the Curate being
 weary of this Inquisition, desired
 them

them to be present at the verification he did hope to make for it. The next day early in the morning he said Mass, where his Sister was present, kneeling down, big with Child, and when the Mass was finished, the said Curate took the *Corpus Domini*, and before all spoke thus to his Sister. *Miserable that thou art, here is he that suffered Death for thee; and before me, I ask thee whether thou art a Virgin, as thou didst tell me always?* And she boldly answered that she was so, and how then is it possible, (saith he) *that thou art big with Child, and still remainest a Virgin?* Then she did reply thus. I cannot give any reason for it, except it be by the vertue of the Holy Ghost, who works in me what he pleaseth: but I cannot deny the
 Grace

Grace that I have received from God, in keeping me a Virgin, for I never had a mind to be married. Then her Brother spoke thus to her: *Here I give thee the Body of the Lord Jesus Christ, which thou shalt take as thy Damnation, if it be otherwise than thou sayest: and they Gentlemen, who are here present shall be Witnesses of it: The Girl being about 13 years old took this Oath; I take the Body of the Lord here present as my Damnation, before you Gentlemen, and before you my Brother, if ever any Man had more to do with me than you: and so speaking she did receive the Body of our Lord.* The two aforesaid Gentlemen, who were there present, seeing and hearing her speak thus, went away with shame and wonder, thinking thus with

with such an Oath she could not lie, and so came back again to the Earl, and told him what both they had seen and heard; and did their endeavour to make him believe what they did believe. But the Earl being a wise Man, meditating upon the Words that they related unto him, desired them to repeat the Oath; and after he had reflected upon it: *She told you* (saith he) *that never any Man did meddle with her more than her Brother:* Therefore I think that her Brother rother with Child, and is willing to hide that Wickedness under so great dissimulation: and as for us, who believe that Jesus Christ is come, we are not to expect another. Therefore to ye and put the Priest her Brother in Prison, I am confident he will confess the Truth: they did obey him, after they had told him what inconvenience might happen to scandalize so honest a Man as he was reputed. But as soon as the Priest was seized, he

he confell'd his Wickedness, and how he advis'd his Sister to speak such Words, to hide their bad Practice, not only by a small excuse, but also by an Equivocation, whereby they were honoured of all. And when they asked him, why he was so wicked, to take the Lord's Body to make her swear upon't: he replied, *he had not been so bold, but that he took Bread not consecrated.* The whole Story and Circumstances of it, being related to the Earl of *Angoulesme*: he gave order to the Judges to take notice of it, and to punish them accordingly. They did stay till his Sister was brought to Bed; and after she was brought to Bed of a fine Boy, she and her Brother were burnt publickly, and every Body did very much wonder at it, because they saw under a Holy Cloak so horrible a Monster; and to reign so abominable a Vice under the colour of a Godly Life.

Here ends the First Part.

THE
FRYER:

The Second PART.

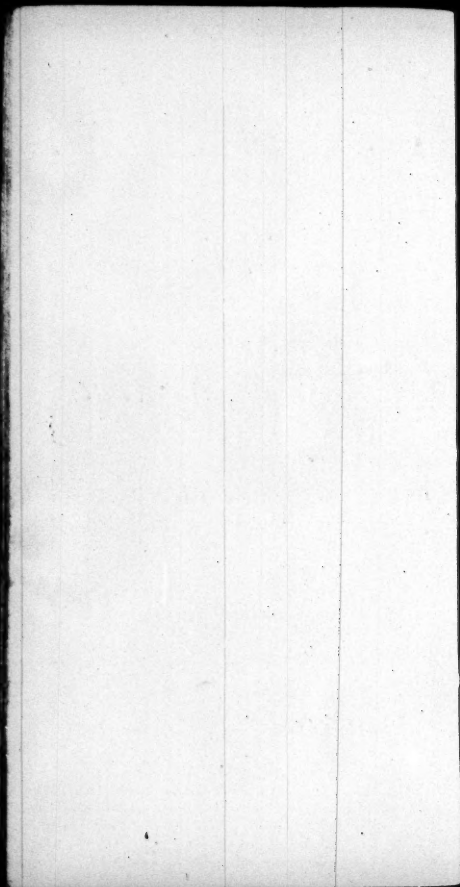
Being A
Comical Narration
OF

Their idle Lives, Vitioufness,
Folly and Cruelty of Fryers.

By *James Salgado* a Spaniard, for-
merly a Romish Priest.

LONDON,

Printed for the Author, 1680.



A
Comical Narration.

The Second Part.

Fryer Robert *informeth* a Gentlewoman, how the Angel Gabriel had fallen in Love with her; under which disguise, he often accompanies her; at last for fear of her Parents, throws himself out of the window, and retires into a poor Bodies House. who the next day after, carries him to the Market place, in the shape of a wild man; where the Fryer being discovered, was

taken by the Monks of his Order, and Imprisoned.

AT *Imola* in *Italy* there was a man of a very leud and vicious Life and Conversation; Whose blame-worthy deeds, many of *Imola* thorowly knew, and because of that, they so much despised him, and made him so infamous, that none of them would give credit not only to his Lyes, but to the very Truth spoken by him. He perceiving that stage not to be proper for the acting upon any longer; a person of his disposition, half desperate, betook himself to *Venice*, (a gulf and a receiver of all dissolutness) to act there the remaining part of his Comedy. And as if he had
been

been touch'd in his Conscience with a remorse for his former loose way of living, appeared humble beyond apprehension, and seemed to every body, to be a holy and a Catholick man, and became a *Franciscan* Fryer, calling himself, Fryer *Robert* of *Imola*. Being in this habit, he outwardly began to lead a sharp and a strict life, commending very much repentance and abstinence, he would neither eat Flesh, nor drink Wine, when he had not such as pleas'd him. No living Soul could perceive at the least that out of a Thief, a Ruffian, a Cheat, and a Murderer, he so suddenly had been turn'd into a great and famous Preacher, without having abandoned his former vices, when
 he

he secretly could put them into effect. Moreover always after the celebration of the Mass, standing at the Altar, being seen by many, Sung with Tears the Passion of our Saviour, according to the Custom of them to whom Tears doth not cost much, when they have a mind to cry. In short, he by his Tears and Preaching knew how in this disguise to feed up the *Venetians*, in so much that he was an Executor almost of all the peoples Wills, and had in his hands and custody the moneys of many: He was a Confessor to the bigger part of Men and Women. So going out of a Wolf he became to be a Shepherd, and the fame of his sanctity in those parts, was greater than ever it was of St. Francis at *Assesia*. It

It hapned once, that one young Gentlewoman, vain and foolish, called *Lisetta*, Wife to a great and rich Merchant, who was gone with Goods into *Flanders*, went with the rest of the Gentlewomen to confess to this holy Fryer. She standing upon her Feet, after the *Venetian* fashion, where they are all delicate, and having confessed a part of her sins, was demanded by Fryer *Robert*, if she had not a Gallant. To whom she with a lower Face, replyed; *How Master Fryer, have you got no Eyes in your Head? will you compare my beauty with others? I should have Lovers and Gallants enough, if I but listed, but my beauty is not bent that way, to love either one or the other. How many have you seen of*
that

that beauty as mine is? which should be admired in the very Paradise it self. Above that she spoke so many things about her Beauty, that it was tedious to hear her, *Fryer Robert* immediately perceived she was light headed, and seeing her to be of his own currant Cown was suddenly and above measure taken in love with her. But to shew himself at that instant, a pious and a holy Man, did put off his flatteries, till a more convenient time, and began to reprove her, saying that this was a vain Glory, and a Pride, and the like. Wherewith the Gentlewoman being moved, told him he was a Beast, and did not know the difference betwixt one Beauty and another. *Fryer Robert* not will-

willing, either to trouble her, or to put her out of conceit: The confession being done, he let her go with the rest. Some days after, he took with him a trusty Friend of his own, and went to the House of Madam *Lisetta*, and having retir'd into a secret place, not being seen by any, fell down upon his knees, saying; *Madam I desire you, for Gods sake, to pardon me my fault, which I last Sunday committed in speaking against your beauty, for which I was so severely chastiz'd, that I could not rise from bed till this very same day.* The foolish Dame replied: And who was it pray, that chastized you after this rate? Fryer *Robert* answered; I'll tell you that; I being, that night in my prayers, (as I am always used

used to do) suddenly perceived a great light in my Chamber, and no sooner I turned me about to see what it was, or what it mean'd, but I saw above me, a very beautiful young man, with a great stick in his hand, who catching me by my habit, threw me down upon the ground, and gave me such merciless blows, that he almost bruized all the bones within me. I at last took hold of him, demanding why he had done so by me, and received this answer; Because you presumed to day to reprove the Celestial beauty of Madam *Lisetta*, which, after God, I love above all other things of the World. And I presently ask'd him, what are you? To which he answered;
That

That he was the Angel Gabriel.
*O Signior (quoth I) I crave
 mercy, I crave mercy : And he
 presently answered : Pardon shall
 be granted to thee, but upon such
 terms, that you go to her by the
 first opportunity you can, and beg
 mercy at her hands, and if she
 should not forgive you your fault,
 I'll return hither, and beat you so
 cruelly, that you shall feel the smart
 of it all the days of your life ! But
 what he said to me after this, I will
 not tell you, before I have obtained
 forgiveness. She hearing this,
 was for joy almost out of her
 wits, believing all he said to be
 true, and a little after said, Did
 not I tell you so, Father Robert,
 that my beauty was a heaven-
 ly beauty ? But for all that, I
 take heaven to witness, I am ve-
 ry*

ry sorry for you, and to the end he should do you no more harm; I heartily forgive you, provided you give a faithful report to me of all, what the Angel spoke afterwards to you; Fryer *Robert* answered, Madam, since you have been pleased to pardon me, I'll willingly and franckly tell you all the matter; only I beg one thing of you, that you should take heed, lest you should open the matter to any living Soul in the world, and in so doing you shall be the most happy Gentlewoman under the Sun. This Angel, *Gabriel*, ordered me to tell you, how you pleas'd him above measure, and that he had very often desired to come, and stay all the Night with you, but he did it not for fear of frightening

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ting you. At this present he sends
 word by me, that he will come
 to you one of these nights, and tar-
 ry a while with you. But he being
 an Angel, if he should come in the
 shape of an Angel, you could not
 touch him, he acquaints you
 with it, that he will come in the
 shape of a man, and therefore
 desires you to appoint him a
 time, when he should come, and
 in whose shape, and as then he
 will not fail to be here; whereof
 you may count your self blessed
 above all the living Women at
 this day. This antick Madam
 answered how she was greatly af-
 fected with joy and pleasure, for
 being loved by the Angel *Gabri-*
el, and therefore she loved him
 also, neither should she see an I-
 mage of him, where she should
 no

not light a wax Candle before it, and he might chooſe what hour he pleas'd himſelf to come, and ſhould be very welcome, and find her all alone in her Chamber, provided he ſhould not leave her becauſe of the Virgin *Mary*, whom as ſhe thought he wiſhed well, and was ſo obedient to her, that every where, whereſoever ſhe ſaw the Virgin, ſhe alſo ſaw him kneeling before her, and as then, ſhe left it to himſelf to come in what ſhape he pleas'd, becauſe ſhe was not at all afraid of him. Fryer *Robert* preſently answered; Madam, you ſpeak very wiſely, and I ſhall order with him the buſineſs, you ſpoke of, very well; but you could do me a great kindneſs, and it ſhould coſt you nothing;
and

and it is this, that you may be willing to permit he should come in this my body. And herein you will shew me a great kindness; He entring into my Body, will take my Soul out of it, and send it into Paradise, and as long as he stays with you my Soul shall stay there. This good Madam immediately answers: *I am content, and will that you may have this consolation, in recompence of those stripes which you suffered for my sake.* Fryer Robert, thus again, *You will order it so, that this very same night, he may find the Gates of your house opened, that he may come in; for he being in a humane body, in which he will come shall not be able to enter but by the door.* The Gentlewoman

man answered, she would do it. So the Fryer *Roberto* departed, and she that was left behind, was so proud and so glorious, that she thought not her shift good enough to touch her back : That short time, in which she was to stay for the Angel, seemed to her a thousand years. Fryer *Robert* had got permission to go with a Commerad to one of his Friends at night. Where he was very well known. From thence, the time being short, he did go to the Gentlewomans house, and in the very entring, with those Trincket he had about him, transform'd himself into an Angel, and without being perceived by any, very easily did go to the Chamber of *Lisetta*. Who perceiving him going in all in white,
pre-

presently fell down upon her knees before him, and the Angel gave her a blessing, and having boar her up by her hand, made a sign she should go to Bed : She being willing to obey, did it presently, and the Angel instantly accompanied his devout Lady. Lying with her, he many things related to her about matters Cœlestial. At last the encroaching light of the then rising Sun, invited him to depart, and he taking his Trumperies, and the rest of the Apparel with him, bid her farewell. The Gentlewoman after she had Dined with one of her Companions, went directly to Fryer *Robert*, and told him all the news about the Angel *Gabriel*, as likewise, what she had heard of him about the glory

glory of the life everlasting, and how he was made, adding to it of her own other wonderful Fables. To which Fryer, Robert replyed. *Madam, I do not know how you have housed with him: that I know well, that he coming to me that same night, and I having delivered your Embassy to him, suddenly carried my Soul amongst so many sweet Flowers and Roses, as I never saw before, and set me in one of the most delightful places of the world, where it was, till this very morning, what in the mean time hapned to my Body, I do not know: I will not tell you,* said the Gentlewoman; *Your body was all night long with the Angel Gabriel in my Arms.* And after many such stories as these she returned home again, whi-

whither Fryer *Alberto* in the
 apparent form of an Angel, very
 often repaired, without recei-
 ving the least hurt, or impedi-
 ment. It fell out once that Ma-
 dam *Lisetta* being with her Gos-
 sip; and reasoning amongst them
 about beauty, for that she might
 put hers before all others (as be-
 ing of a mean wit) said: *If you*
knew whom my beauty pleases, in
verity, you would hold your Tongue
of the rest. Her Gossip knowing
 what she was, desirous to hear
 the matter, said: *Madam you*
may speak truth; but because I
do not know who your Gallant may
be, there is no need I should be so
easy of believing you. She
 presently replied: *Gossip, it*
would not be necessary to tell you of
him, but my Gallant is the Angel

Grabriel, who loves me above
 himself, as a Gentlewoman (as he
 tells me) surpassing in beauty
 the rest of the world. The Gossip
 was ready to fall a laughing, but
 restrained her self from it, to
 make her talk more, and said
 God bless me, Madam, is Angel
 Gabriel your Gallant indeed? And
 if ye say so, it is very well for you
 but I did not believe the Angel
 did any such thing. O yes (answer-
 ed Lisseta,) and because I seemed
 in his eyes fairer then any Lady
 in Heaven, he, enchanted by my
 beauty, comes very often to divert
 himself with me. The Gossip be-
 ing departed from Lisseta
 thought that time to be a hun-
 dred years long, wherein she had
 not the opportunity of rehear-
 sing the whole matter. At last
 being

being invited to a feast, in the
company of many Gentlewoman
very orderly recited the History.
These Gentlewomen told it to
their Husbands, and to some o-
ther Dames, and they again to
others, so that in less then two
days all the City of *Venice* was
full of it. But amongst the rest,
unto whose Ears this History
had been brought, were the
friends of *Lisetta*, which with-
out saying any thing to her, de-
termined to find out this An-
gel, and to know whether he
would fly or no, and in order to
that, they many nights stood at
her Dore, holding watch. It
happened that this same came to
Cryer *Robert's* Ears, who one
night to reprove the Gentle-
woman, went to her, and after
being

he had put off all his Clothes
Lisetta's Relations that had seen
 him going in, shut the Doors of
 her Chamber after him, for that
 they might catch him. Which
 Fryer *Aberto* perceiving and see-
 ing who they were, run out of
 that Chamber into another, and
 having no other means whereby
 to escape, opened a Window
 right over against the great
 Channel (all the City of *Venice*
 standing upon Water) and from
 thence threw himself down into
 the River. Which being very
 deep, and he knowing how to
 swim, received no hurt at all
 and having swum, but on the
 other side of the Channel, pre-
 sently retired to a House, which
 at that time was open; desiring
 the Landlord of the House, that

for the love of God would
 give his Life, telling him in the
 mean time some story or other,
 why he came there, about that
 hour, and naked. The good
 Man being moved with compassi-
 on, and having an occasion to
 go out about his business, put him
 into his own Bed, telling him,
 he should be there till his com-
 ing again, and after he had lock-
 ed him up, he went his ways a-
 bout his affairs. The Friends
 of the Gentlewoman entring the
 Chamber found, that the An-
 gel *Gabriel*, having left his wings
 behind him, was flown away.
 Whereby they thinking them-
 selves scorned and affronted, gave
 to the Gentlewoman the basest
 Language they ever could think
 on, or invent, and at last hav-

ing left her comfortable, returned to their own house, with the apparel of the Angel. In the meantime the break of the day appeared, and his good Land Lord, being in the Market heard saying how that the Angel Gabriel, had been gon the night past to lye with Madam *Lisette* and being surpriz'd by her Relations, out of fear flung himself into the Channel, and no body knew what was become of him, and thereby concluded immediately, that it was the same Person, he had in his House. Coming home, and having told him all the story, after many other propositions, said; That if the Fryer would not have him to tell to her Relations he was there, he should make fifty Ducats to come

come immediately, which was
 done. After this Fryer Roberts
 desiring to depart thence, had
 his answer from his Landlord,
 have no other means to bring
 you out but one, which if you
 will not admit of, I do not know
 what to do. To day we are ma-
 king a great Feast, in which some
 will bring a Man divided in a
 shape of a Bear, and another will
 be gone disguised as a Wild Man,
 so one will do one thing, ano-
 ther another, and in the *Piaz-*
za of *S. Marco* we will make a
 Chase, which being finished, the
 Feast will be done, and after
 that every one goeth with him,
 whom he brought thither, whi-
 ther he pleaseth. If you will, be-
 fore they spie out that you
 are here, that I conduct and car-

ry you to that place in one of the disguises, I'll afterwards carry you whether you please. Otherwise I do not see how you can go out without being known, especially the friends of the Gentlewoman, being for certain perswaded, you are hereabouts, have all over sent out Guards to catch you. This though it appeared very hard to the Fryer, as to go out in that fashion, yet for fear which he had of *Lysetta's* Friends, condescended to it, saying he would be led where it should please the other, and he might lead him as he thought best himself. He having anointed the Fryer all over with Hony, put some down upon him, and a Chain about his Neck, and a Mask upon his Head, and gave him

him a great stick into one of his Hands, and two great Doggs which he had brought from the Shambles into the other, and sending some Man he had bespoken into the Market, made him cry if any one had a desire to see the Angel *Gabriel* he should repair to the *Piazza* of *S. Marco*: This was a *Venetian* Loyalty. This having been done, after he had brought him forth, he made him to go before him, and so holding him fast by the Chain followed him, and not without a great noise of many; who asked, Who is this? Who is this? Conducted him to the *Piazza*. Where, when they were, some stood from behind, and some from before of them, that having heard

the cry upon the streets, were come thither, a multitude without number. At last the Landlord carried this Fryer to a place higher then the rest, and bound this his Wildman to a Post, faining that as he would stay for the time of chase, in the mean time the Flyes and Wasps, he being all anointed with Hony. made him feel the greatest smart imaginable. Afterwards seeing the Piazza to be very full, making as if he would have unchained his Wild man, took the Mask down from Fryer Robert, and said; because the Wild Boar doth not come, the chase cannot be run, that you may not lose your labour, by coming hither in vain, I do desire you to see this Angel Gabriel, who to comfort

fort the *Venetian* Gentlewomen,
 descended from Heaven upon
 Earth. When ever the mask of
 was took down, Fryer *Robert*
 was kown by all, against whom
 all lifted up their voyces, call-
 ing him the most horrible names
 that ever any Knave deserved,
 throwing moreover at his Face
 one foul thing or another. And
 they kept him along time in this
 manner, till at last the noise of
 this Tragedy coming to the Ears
 of his Brethren the Monks, they
 being moved by it came thither,
 and having thrown a Fryers Cap
 upon his back, and unchained
 him. carried him not without a
 great noyse of people behind
 their backs into a House, and af-
 terwards put him into prison,
 where (if it may belived) after a
 mis-

miserable life departed this
World.

*Master Capelletto, deceiveth a
Holy Father by a false confession
and dieth, and having been
a most dissolute Man in
his Life, was after his death
reputed for a Saint, and called
S. Capelletto.*

ONE *Muscato* a French-
man, from a rich and a
great Merchant, being become
a Knight, was bound by the in-
vitation of Pope *Bonifacius*, and
his own promises, to go for
Tuscany in the company of *Don
Carlo*, Brother to the King of
France, and knowing his affairs,
(as often times those of Mer-
chants

chants are) to be here and there
 extreemly intricate, and that
 he could not extricate himself by
 law, or suddenly, he determin-
 ed to commit the whole mat-
 ter to some more Persons. And
 he found out means for all his
 Debtors ; onely he still remain-
 ed doubtful ; unto whom to give
 a Plenipotence for the receiving
 of those Monies, some few Bur-
 gundians owed him. The reason
 of this his musing was, for that
 the *Burgundians* are very cunning
 ill conditioned, and faithless peo-
 ple, and because of this, none
 could fall into his mind, whom
 he thought fit enough to intrust
 with his mony, and to oppose to
 the cunning malice of the *Burgan-
 dians*. Examining and overweigh-
 ing

ing the matter for a long time, at last fell into his mind *Sieur Cappalletto*, who often times repaired into his House, at *Paris*. This *Cappalletto* was of a very bad life. For being a publick Notary, he was extreamly ashamed, if any of his Indentures, or Law Instruments were found other wise then false. To bear false witness was his greatest delight; whether he was desired to it, or not, and at that time the French-men gave great credit to Oaths, not regarding whether they were false or no, he unjustly won as many Tryals as upon Oath he was desired to declare the Truth, he delighted above measure, yea, studied to breed betwixt friends, relations, or any other people, Mischief, Envy, Malice,

lice, and scandall, and in how much the consequence was the worser, in so much he took a greater pleasure in it. Being invited to a murder, or any other criminal exploit; he without denial and willingly went thither, and very often to strike at a man, and to kill him also, was almost his mean business. He was the greatest blasphemer of God, and for the smallest matter, on Earth, who was it but he that was outraged beyond measure. He never went to Church, but with despising and scorn at the Sacraments of the same, as things vile and of no Efficacy. And as well as he abominably railed against them, so on the other side, he usually frequented Taverns, and visited the most dishonest and

and unlawfull places. To invade on goods, and to rob men of all they had, was done by him with a Conscience as free as ever an honest and a godly Man distributed some thing to the poor. He was a great Glutton, and an excessive Drinker, so that he never eat, or drank, but his Stomach turn'd within him. A Gamester very expert, and a very famous Hocuspocus, at throwing of false Dice. But not to use so many digressions he was in short, the basest Wretch that ever was born. Whole Knavery and wickedness, was for a long time supported by the riches and the estate of Sir *Muscato*, for whose sake, as well as by some private persons with whom he too often plaid injurious tricks,

in as also by the Court, where he
 ner always acted a Knave, was some-
 be what respected. This same Mr.
 tree *Capelleto* came into Sir *Muscato's*
 odly mind, who intirely knowing his
 g to manner of Life, thought him the
 glut- fittest Person, that ever could be
 r, so found, for his purpose, and such
 but a one as the malice of the *Bur-*
 im. *gundians* required.

And so having made him to be
 at cal'd, spoke to him thus, Mr.
 not *Capelleto*, you know that I am
 he going wholly to depirt from
 etch hence, and having amongst the
 hole rest to do with some *Burgundi-*
 was *ans*, a People much addicted to
 the currying, I do not know unto
Mus- whom I may so conveniently
 as by give plenipotence of receiving
 hom my own from them, as to you.
 icks, And since you at present, have
 as nothing

nothing at all to do, if you will attend this my concern, It's make you to have the Favour of the Court, and give you a part of what you recover, according as I shall deem it expedient. Mr. *Capelleto*, who see himself in streights, being constrained by necessity, without deliberation, answered, he would willingly obey his Command. So they went together, and Mr. *Capelleto* having received his orders, and Favourable Letters from the King, departed from Mr. *Aduscato* in his way for *Burgundy* where he was known by no Body. There, contrary to his Nature, he with great Modesty and a deal of Civility began to recover the moneys, and to do that which he

was sent for thither. So doing,
 he repaired to a House of two
 Brothers of *Florence*, to Lodge
 there; these were Usurers, and
 for the Love of Sir *Muscato*, they
 Honoured him very much; be-
 ing there, it hapned he fell Sick,
 to whom these two Brothers
 caused presently some Physicians
 to come, and Nurses to serve
 him, there was nothing wan-
 ting whatsoever was requisite for
 the recovery of his Health. But
 all this help availed nothing;
 for the good Gentleman, who
 was already old, and had lived
 very disorderly, grew (according
 to the saying of the Physicians.)
 every day worse and worse, and
 was already combating with
 Death, which these two Bro-
 thers were exceeding sorry for
 And

And one day being very near to the Chamber, where Mr. *Caselleto* lay Sick, began to talk between themselves, saying one to another, what shall we do with this Man? We have a very bad business under our hands. For if we put him out of Doors, as he is now Sick and Weak, a great murmuring of People will arise, neither will it be an Argument of great wisdom in us; but a manifest sign of folly, if after we have first received him courteously, and then made him to be attended, and carefully to be cured, should now without having received any displeasure at his hands, so suddenly throw him out of our House, in this weak and deadly condition. On the other side, he is a Man so wicked

wicked, that he will not yield to go to confession, neither can be perswaded to receive any of the Sacraments of the Church, and if he dies without confession there is not one Church will bury him, so that he must be thrown into some hole after the manner of a Dog. And if he should confels, his Sins are so great and horrible that there is none like to be found, for which sake the Priest that will hear him if he would, shall not be able to absolve him, and he not being absolved shall nevertheless be thrown into some Dunghil. And if this should fall out, the People of this Country seeing this, either because of our calling, which they judge to be unlawful, and every day speak against

gainst it, or else for desire of robbing, should make a rumour, saying, regard not these Lombardian Dogs which could not be Buried in the Church, and how can we, or how should we tolerate them any longer, and consequently should storm, not only at our Houses for to rob them, but also should assassinate our Persons, wherefore at every side we are in a sad and pickled condition, in case he should dye. Mr. Capelleso, who (as we told you) did lye next to that place where they thus discoursed, having a very sharp hearing, (as we commonly see the Sick have,) did hear all they said of him. Whom he made to be called, and said to them. I desire you heartily not to doubt any thing about me.

me. nor to have any fear of receiving any Damage by me. I have understood what you have spoke together of me, and am assured that things will not run so as you conceived they should, but they shall run quite contrary ways. I have done so many injuries to the Almighty in my Life, that if I doe one more in the Hour of my Death, I do not think there shall be one more or less. Therefore procure the Godliest and the most understanding Fryer you can find to come to me, (if any such can be found.) And leave the rest to me, for I will so neatly accommodate your business and mine, that your self shall judge it to be well done, and shall be abundantly satisfied. The two Brothers who had no hopes of
the

the good success of the business, went nevertheless to some Religious Fryers, and asked for a Holy and understanding Man, that should hear a confession of a dying *Lombard*; and they appointed to them a Godly old Man, who was respected as well for his Holy Life as for his great Learning in the Holy Scriptures, for which all the Citizens had a great devotion for him, and him they brought; He coming into the Chamber where Mr. *Capelleto* lay Sick, and having sit down at his side; at the first began to comfort him with a great deal of kindness, and afterwards asked of him, how long it was since the last time he confessed. To which Mr. *Capelleto* (who had never been at a confession.)

(son.) thus Answered, Father, my
 Re- only custom is to confess at least
 or a once a Week, excepting those
 lan. seasons, in which I confess in a
 of Week more then once, but true
 hey it is that since I fell Sick, I have
 odly not confessed this eight days, so
 l as great was the tediousness which
 his the infirmity had caused within
 rip- me. The Fryer presently replied
 zens My Son you have done very well,
 and and so do for the future, and be-
 om- ing you have confessed so lately,
 here shall have little Labour either
 ha- to hear you, or to ask you Que-
 the- tions. Mr. Capelleto answered
 with Master Fryer, do not say so, I
 l as have not Confessed so often, but
 ong that I always had a desire to Con-
 on- fess all my sins again in general,
 let which I could call to memory
 ess- from the first till the last day of
 on.

C

my

my Confession. Therefore I desire you my good Father, that you may be pleas'd to ask me punctually of all things, as if I had never Confessed. Neither doe you regard that I am so weak for I have a greater desire to displease this sinful Flesh of mine, then by flattering of it, commit such a thing as might cause the perdition and ruine of my Soul, which was redeemed by the precious blood of our Saviour. These words pleased much the good old man, and gave him reason to think he was pritty well in himself, and after he had greatly praised, this his custom he began to ask him; if he had not committed a Sin of luxury. To which Mr. *Capelle* sighing Answered ; As to this
good

Good Father I am ashamed to
 tell you the truth, fearing less I
 should become guilty of vain
 Glory. To which this Holy Fa-
 ther Answered: Tell securely,
 for speaking the truth we neither
 sin in, nor without the time of
 Confession. Presently Mr. *Capel-*
eto replied, since you make me
 sure of it, I also will tell you; I
 am as pure a Virgin as I came
 from my Mothers Belly; O Bles-
 sed be thou from the *Almighty*,
 quoth the Fryer, how well have
 you done, and doing so, you
 have Merited by so much the
 more, by how much you had a
 greater Liberty to do the con-
 trary, which we cannot have,
 nor any one else that is bound
 to the Obedience of one Rule or
 other. Then he asked him, if he

had not displeased God in Gluttony. To which Mr. Capelleto sighing vehemently replied, I, and often too. For saith he, besides the Lent Fast and other Fasts vowed to the Saints, I at least Fasting three days every week in Bread and water, did drink the water with great delight and appetite, especially after I had undergone some Travel, and was made weary either by long Prayers, or else by Pilgrimage to some Holy Place, and oftentimes I got a Stomack to have a Sallet of four herbs to this my cheer. To whom Answered the Fryer; my Son, these sins are Natural, and so small, that I would not bid you to aggravate your Conscience with them, it happens to every Body, let him be never so Holy, that he thinks it good after

a long fast to eat and to drink after weariness. O! quoth Mr. Capel-
 leto Sir, doe not speak thus because
 for my comfort, for you must un-
 derstand, that I know that all our
 actions belonging to the Service of
 God, ought to be done neatly, and
 without defiling the Soul with the
 least of oversight, and whosoever
 doth it otherwise, he committeth
 a Sin. The Fryer being very well
 satisfied, said ; And I also am con-
 tented with your good conceit in
 those matters, and thy pure
 Conscience pleaseth me mightily.
 But tell me, have you sinned in Co-
 vetousness, desiring to have
 more then you had need of, or keep-
 ing that from another which you
 should not have kept. Mr. Capel-
 leto Answered to this. Father
 I would not have you to take notice

of it, that I do heare in the House
of these Usurers, I have nothing
to do with them, but that I came
hither to admonish and to correct
them, and to draw them away
from this abominable gain; and
believe me I had done the business,
if God had not thus visited me, for
you must know my Father left me
a Rich Man, out of whose goods af-
ter his Death, I gave the best part
of them for the Glory of God, and
afterwards to maintain my self
and be helpful to the Poor Mem-
bers of Christ, I bought some Mar-
chandizes, and by these to gain
some profit, and whatsoever I gai-
ed I always did go halvs with the
Poo, converting my moyety for my
own necessary uses, and the other
giving to them, for which the Al-
mighty helped me so far, that I al-
ways

always advanced in my things better and better. You have done well, said the Fryer, but how often have you been angry. O ! quoth *Mr. Capelleto*, this I say truly, I was very often angry. Neither could I withhold my self seeing the vicious actions of all People in general, which neither did observe the Commandements of God, nor feared his Judgments. There hapned many Hours in a day, in which I with my self more dead then alive, seeing the youth to go after vanity, to swear and forswear, to go to the Taverns, and never enter the Church, and to follow the ways of this World, more then the ways of the Lord. The Fryer again said, my Son this is a good anger, and as for me I cannot lay upon thee penalty,

nalty; but did not sometimes this
 anger bring you to the committ-
 ing of a Murder, or to the Sland-
 ering of a Person, or to the do-
 ing of some other injuries to him.
 To whom Mr. *Capelletto* said ; O
 Lord, Master Fryer ! You appear
 to me a Man of God, and how
 do you speak such things, if I had
 had the least thoughts of com-
 mitting any of these Villanies
 you speak of, do you think I
 should believe, that the *Almighty*
ty had kept me thus long ? Such
 doings belongs to the wicked and
 doleful wretches, of which when
 I espyed one, I always said to
 him, God convert you. The
 Fryer said immediately. Now
 my Son, God lend thee his Bless-
 ing, tell me have not you borne
 false witness against your Neigh-
 bour

this
 mit-
 Slan-
 e do
 him
 ; O
 pear
 how
 had
 om-
 nies
 nk
 igh-
 uch
 and
 hen
 to
 The
 ow
 lef-
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 out

bour, or spoak any bad thing
 of him, or took away something
 from him without his consent?
 Answers *Capelleto*, never did I
 speak bad of any, but I had once
 a Neighbour, who without any
 reason of the World did nothing
 else but beat his Wife, and of
 him I spoke ill to her Relations,
 so great compassion I had for this
 poore Gentlewoman, when ever
 he was fuddled did abuse her God
 knows how. The Fryer said to
 him again, just now you told
 me you had been a Merchant,
 dost not thou cheat any Person
 according to the custom of Mar-
 chants? By my Faith Answered
 Mr. *Capelleto*, Mr. Fryer I doe
 not know who it was, but there
 was one had payed me my mony
 he ow'd me for some Cloath he
 had

had of me, and I put it into a Chest without having counted the same, a month after I found there was four pence above my due, and I not finding the man, after I had kept them a whole year for to give them again to him, distributed the same to the Poor. The Fryer Answered, that's a small matter, and in doing so, you did well. And after this the Holy Fryer did ask him many other Questions, he upon them all, Answering at the same rate as before : He was proceeding to the absolution, to whom Mr. Capelletto, said, Master Fryer, I have yet one sin, which I have not discovered to you, The Fryer asking what it was, he Answered, I remember I made once a Servant of mine to sweep the room on the
 Lords

Lords day and so did ~~not~~ pay
 that due reverence I ought to
 that day, Oh said the Fryer that's
 but a small thing. No, replyeth
 Mr. *Capelletto*, do not say it is
 a small matter, for the Lords
 day ought to be very much
 honoured, for on that day did
 our Blessed Saviour rise from
 the dead. The Fryer said again,
 did you commit anything else?
 Master, Answers *Capelletto*, I once
 unawares did spit in the Church.
 The Fryer smiling a little said,
 my Son, this thing is not to be
 heeded, we that are Religious
 spit there all day long. where-
 upon *Capelletto* immediately said,
 And thereby you commit a great
 Villanie, for nothing ought to
 be kept so neat, as the Holy
 Church in which we render Sa-
 crifices unto the Lord. In short,
 such

such cries as these he told many; at last he began to sigh, and afterwards to cry stoutly, as one which could do it very well, when he pleased. The holy Father said. My Son, what doth ail you? *Gappelletto* answered: Ah me, Master Fryer, because one sin is resting, which I never confess but have the greatest shame imaginable to disclose it, and ~~whichever~~ I think upon. It I always cry, as you see now at this present, and as for me, I am perswaded, God will never pardon me this my exorbitance.

The simple Fryer presently replied; *Out upon you my Son, what do you say? If all the sins that were committed by all Men, or that shall be committed for the future, as long as the world stands, should be in one single man, and he should*

*be sorry, for them, and repent, as I see you do, so great is the bounty and mercy of the Almighty, that he should freely forgive them to the Confitent, and therefore speak frankly and without fear; Mr. Capelletto answered again, all the while crying most bitterly. On my Father, my sin is too great and I can hardly believe, I shall obtain pardon for it, from the Almighty, unless you help me with your Prayers. The Fryer laid: Tell it freely, for I faithfully promise, to interceed for thee. Mr. Capelletto wept further, and said nothing, and the Priest comforted him, and desired him to tell. Afterwards, Mr. Cappelletto having held the Fryer a long while in amaze, made a great sigh and said; Good Father, since you have
 pro-*

promis'd to pray to God for me.
 I am resolv'd to tell you: Know
 then, when I was a very little
 Boy, I gave bad language to my
 Mother, and having said this
 began to cry again most cruelly.
 The Father answered; O my Son,
 do you think this to be so great a
 Sin that not some people blaspheme
 God all their days, and if they but
 truly repent, he freely forgives
 them, and do not beieve but he
 will forgive you this: Do not cry,
 be comforted, for truly if you had
 been of them that crucified our
 Saviour, and had such a penitent
 heart as I see you have, you should
 be pardoned. Mr, Cappelletto,
 sayed again; Oh me! My Fa-
 ther, what do you say, my sweet
 Mamma, that bore me nine
 months in her womb, night and
 day

day, and carried me about her
 neck, more then a hundred times,
 should she be abused by me, it
 is a very great sin, and if you
 do not pray God for me, it shall
 not be forgiven to me. The Fry-
 er seeing there was nothing else
 left for Mr. *Cappelleto* to say, did
 immediately absolve him, and
 gave him his blessing, counting
 him the holiest man in the
 World, as being intirely per-
 swaded it was all truth, Mr.
Cappelletto had confessed; And
 who should not believe it was so,
 hearing a Man upon his death
 bed speaking so as he did: And
 after all this the Fryer spoke to
 him: Mr. *Cappelletto*, with the
 help of God, you shall shortly
 recover. But if it should hap-
 pen that God should call your
 blessed

blessed, and well-disposed Soul
 to himself, will you be pleas'd,
 that your body may be buried in
 our Cloister ? To which Mr.
Cappelletto answered : Sir, I
 would not have it be any where
 else, after I received a promise,
 you should pray God for me, for
 to pais by that, I always had a
 particular devotion for your Or-
 der. Wherefore I desire you,
 that as soon as you come to your
 Monastery, you may cause to be
 brought to me the real body of
 Christ, such as you do consecrate
 every morning upon the Altar
 for that, (though I be unworthy
 I may with your good will re-
 ceive it, and afterwards the
 holy extream unction, that so I
 who have lived as a sinner should
 at the least die like a Christian.

This

This holy man replied, that he was very well pleased with it, and he said, **Well**, and should I make that it should be brought presently, and it was done accordingly. The two Brothers doubting *Mr. Cappelletto* should cozen the Fryer, posted themselves at the partition of that Chamber, in which he lay, and very easily hearkning, did hear, and understand, what *Mr. Cappelletto* spoke to the Fryer, and had many a time so good a mind to laugh, hearing his confession, that they almost bursted, and betwixt themselves talked thus; what a man is this, whom neither his old age, nor weakness, neither the fear of death, which he is near unto, nor the fear of God, before whose Judgment seat, he in few hours must ap-

appear, could remove from his
 bale tricks, neither effect he
 should be unwilling to die so
 he had lived. But seeing that ac-
 cording as the Fryer had said
 he should be buried in the
 Church, they heeded nothing
 else. Mr. *Cappelletto*, after he
 had received the Communion
 and grew worse and worse, had
 also the extream unction admi-
 nistred unto him, and some time
 being past, after his brave con-
 fession, he died. After this, the
 two Brothers being ordered by
 himself, did consult how to bu-
 ry him honourably, and imme-
 diately sent to the Fryers Cle-
 ster, desiring them to come that
 evening, and to watch at his
 dead Corps, according to the
 Custom, and as for the buriall
 they

they should order all things con-
 venient for to morrow. The
 holy Fryer that had heard his con-
 fession, hearing he was departed
 this life, was at the Priors of
 the House, and made the Bell
 ring to the Chapter, where the
 Fryers crowding in, he opened
 how that *Mr. Cappelletto* had
 been a holy and Godly man, ac-
 cording to what he had appre-
 hended out of his confession.
 And hoping that the Almighty
 would by his means shew many
 Miracles, perswaded them, to
 receive his body with great reve-
 rence and devotion. Which the
 Prior and the rest of the Fryers
 believing agreed too, and at
 night went all thither, where
 the body of *Mr. Cappelletto* did
 ly, where they made a great and

a solemn Vigil, and the morning after, all in their Surplices and Robes, with Books in their hands, and a cross before them went for the Corps, and with great Feast and solemnity, carried it to their Church, being followed almost by all the Citizens, as well Men as Women. And after they had set it in the midst of the Church, the holy Fryer, that had been his Confessor, went to the Pulpit, and began to preach marvellous things, about his Life, fasting about his Virginity, simplicity, innocency, and holiness. Amongst the rest, telling them what Mr. Capelletto had confessed before him to be his greatest sin, and that with Tears, and how he scarce

ould perswade him of it, that
 od should forgive him the same;
 ok an occasion to reprove his
 arers, saying, And you accursed
 ople, for the least bit of a
 aw under you feet, do blas-
 me God, his Mother, and
 the Court of Heaven. And
 spoke many other things of
 s loyalty, faithfulness, purity,
 so much, that with these
 ords (unto which they
 at were from the Country, gave
 ire credit) he put into the
 eads of the Auditors a great
 evotion for the dead man, and
 soon as the Office was finished,
 of them with the greatest
 róng in the world, went to
 his hands and feet, and
 ut all the Cloath about him
 inking themselves happy if
 they

they could have a little piece of it, and the Fryers thought it convenient, to let it stand openly all that day, for that he might be seen and visited by all. The next night after, he was laid into a Coffin of marble, and honourably buried in a Chappel. The next morning after, as well as the rest following the people began to repair thither, and to set up lighted Candles before him, to adore him, and consequently to vow unto him, and to hang at his Grave waxen Images according to their promise. And so much did this fame of his Sanctity increase, and of peoples devotion at his grave, that there was almost never a one, who being in adversity did vow to any other Saint besides to him, and

the

they call'd him S. *Cappelletto*, affirming that God had shewed many Miracles by his means, and sheweth every day many that devoutly recommends himself to this Saint. So lived and died Mr. *Cappelletto*, and became a Saint, as you have been informed.

A Certain Prior and a great Reformer of Nunns, under the Cloak of Hypocrisy trieth all possible means to beguil and intice a Religious Nun, but at length his wickedness is made manifest.

Here was in the City of *Paris* a Prior of *St. Martin in the Fields*, whose Life continued unto the fiftieth year of his age, was so very austere, that the

the fame of his Sanctity, overspread the whole Kingdom of *France*, in so much that there was neither Prince nor Princess, who did not entertain him with singular respect and Honour, when ever he came to visit them. Neither was there any Reformation made in any Religion, Monastery or Abby; but he had always the chief hand in it, for he was commonly called the Father of true Religion, he was Elected Visiter of the great Abby of the Nunns, of *Frontinaux* the which did so extreemly dread them, that whensoever he came into any of their Monasteries all the Nunns did even tremble for fear, and to the end that they might induce him to mitigate somewhat of his Severities he imposed upon them, they

They did Treat and Entertain him
 as nobly and splendidly as if he
 had been the King himself, which
 sumptuous Entertainment he at
 first did seem absolutely to refuse,
 but at last being come to the fif-
 ty fifth year of his Age, he be-
 gan very well to relish the Regals
 and Magnifick Treatments, which
 he had formerly despised, so that
 he thinking that the publick good
 of all Religious Order did depend
 on his Person, he resolved to be
 more careful of his Health, than
 heretofore he had been, so that
 though according to the Di-
 cates of his Order, he was to ab-
 stain from all Flesh Meat, he fairly
 and freely gave himself a Dis-
 pensation, the which he never
 granted to any other Person, say-
 ing that the whole burden of the

D

Re-

Regular Order did rely upon him
 So that he feasted his Carkass
 well, that from a lean Monk, he
 in a little time became as fat as
 Frier, and having changed his
 manner of Livning, he soon
 changed his manners, and began
 to look and fix his Eyes upon
 such Faces which his Conscience
 did not formerly permit him to
 look upon, in so much that cast-
 ing his Eyes upon such Beaut-
 ties which through Vails are
 magnified and become more de-
 sirable, he began to lust after
 them, and in order thereunto
 to satisfy his base lust, he con-
 trived and used the most crafty
 ways which lust and malice can
 suggest, and so disrobing himself
 of the nature of a true Pastour, be-
 putteth on the nature of a Raven

him a voracious Wolf, in so much that in
 many considerable Abbys if he
 found any Nunn simplish, and
 of a pliant nature, he would not
 fail to invegle her, and catch
 her by the Busk. But after that
 he had long continued in this de-
 testable course of Life, Gods in-
 finite bounty Compassionating
 these poor wandring Sheep, did
 not permit him to reign and glo-
 rify in wickedness, as shall appear
 in this following Narration.
 Once as he was going to visit a
 convent hard by *Paris* called
St. Mary, it came to pass, that as he
 was hearing all the Nunns in
 confession, he observed one a-
 mongst them, whose name was
Mary Herauvet, whose Speech
 was so sweet and so agreeable,
 that he did not question but that
 D 2 her

her Face and Heart would correspond to it, wherefore by only having heard her, he was seized with a violent lustful passion, far exceeding any he had had towards the other Nunns, so that in speaking to her he stooped himself very low to look at her, and having perceived her Coral Lips, he could not contain himself from lifting up her Vail that he might see whether her Eyes did answer proportionably the fair Symmetry of her Face and having found them so, he was presently possessed with such a furious Passion, that he could neither eat nor drink, and his Countenance was greatly altered, and being returned to his Priory, he could find no rest, but passed Night and Day restless and full

care how he might compass
 his desire, and deal with her as
 he had done with many others,
 which he knew right well
 was a hard thing to effect, because
 he was a Person of a singular
 Wisdom and acute Wit, and on
 the other side knowing himself so
 difform'd and so old, he resolved
 with himself not to solicit her
 to it, but rather to make her yield
 by fear, wherefore he soon after
 went again to the said Monaste-
 ry of *Gif*, at which time and
 place he shewed himself more se-
 vere than ever, being angry at
 all the Nunns, reproving this be-
 cause her Vail was not low
 enough, and chiding that be-
 cause she lifted her head up too
 high, and checking the other be-
 cause she did not make her cour-

relies as became a Religious
 Nun, and in all these Pains
 lives, he did shew himself so stiff
 and severe, that all the Nuns
 dreaded him as much as Chil-
 dren do their Bug-bears. And
 he who was troubled with the
 Gout, did toil so much in visi-
 ting all the places of the Mona-
 stery, that about the time of
 Evening Prayers (a time appoin-
 ted by him) he came to the
 Dormitory. The Abbess told
 him, Reverend Father, it is time
 to sing Evening Song, to whom
 he replied and said, goe Mo-
 ther, go to Church and sing it,
 for my part I am so weary, that
 I must stay here, not so much to
 rest my self as for to give a Check
 to Sister *Mary Herouet*, concern-
 ing whom I have heard a very ill
 fame

ame, for I have been told that
 he rattles and prattles like any
 stin worldling. The Prioress
 who was Aunt to the said Nanns
 Mother, prayed him to check
 her smartly, and left her ali alone
 with him, excepting a young
 Monk who was come with him,
 as soon as he perceived himself
 all alone with *Sister Mary*, he be-
 gan to lift up her Vail, and to
 command her she should look
 upon him, she did answer that
 according to the Rules of her Or-
 der she was prohibited casting
 her Eyes upon any Man. Well
 said Daughter, replied he, but
 you must not repute us Religious
 Persons as Men. Wherefore the
 said *Sister Mary* fearing to Sin
 against the vow of her Obedi-
 ence, did look him in the Face,

but she perceived him so ugly and deform'd; that she thought she had undergone a greater Penance, than committed Sin, in looking him in the Face, this Holy Father after that he had displayed the best Flowers of his *Rhetorick* in declaring his great respects and Cordial Affections towards her, he presently clapt his hand upon her Breast, but she according to her duty thrust him back, and he being in a great fume Exclaimed against her saying, What? must a Religious Nunn know that she hath Teats, she forthwith replied, Yea I know that I have them, and also that you, and such as you are ought not to lay hands on them, for I am not so young nor ignorant, but that I know right well what is a sin,
and

and what is not ; but he well
 perceiving that he could not win
 the place by such Stratagems, he
 resolved to turn over a new leaf,
 in telling her, Alas, dear Sister,
 I must needs declare to you my
 great extremity ; and the case is
 this, I am troubled with a Di-
 stemper which all Physicians do
 judge incurable , unless I take
 some pastime with a Woman
 that I love very well ; as for me
 I do not esteem my life so much
 but that I would rather chuse to
 dye than to commit a mortal sin,
 but if the business did proceed so
 far, it is well known that the
 simple sin of Fornication is no
 way to be parallell'd with the sin
 of Murder ; wherfore if you
 love my life it is in your power
 to save it, and together to free

your Conscience from an extreme Cruelty. But she, replying, asked him what kind of Pastime he meant to take; he answered her, that she might very well repose her Conscience upon his, and that he would do nothing that could any way turn to the prejudice of either of them, and to shew her a prelude of that pastime he required, he presently embracing her, did endeavour with all his strength to cast her upon the Bed; but she by this time perceiving his wicked intent, what by words and what by deeds did defend her self so well, that notwithstanding all his bustle and chafing he had power to touch nothing but her Cloaths. Now when he saw that all his endeavours and inventions

ventions were but in vain, as an
 enraged man, and one that had
 put off all sense of Conscience
 and of Natural Reason, clapt
 his hand under her Coats, and
 so far as he could touch, scratch-
 ed her so cruelly, that the poor
 Nun shrieking out fell down her
 full height on the ground in a
 swoon. Now the Abbess having
 heard her out-cry, forthwith en-
 tered the Dormitory where she
 was, and remembering that she
 had left her Niece all alone with
 that good Father, and smitten in
 her Conscience, did thrust the
 door which the young Monk
 held fast. Now this holy Prior
 hearing that the Abbess her self
 was at the door, caused it to be
 opened, and shewing her her
 Niece on the ground in a swoon,
 told her; Certainly, Madam,
 you

you are very much to blame that you never informed me of the dispositions of Sister *Mary*, for I being altogether ignorant of the weak disposition of her body, caused her to stand all the while I was checking of her, and so as you see she is fallen into a swoon. They did with Vinegar, and other fit things, at last recover her out of her swoon, and found that by her fall she had got a hurt in her head. Now being come to her self, the Prior fearing lest she should declare to the Abbess, who was her Aunt, the Cause of her illness, told her secretly by her self, Daughter I forbid you upon pain of Disobedience and of eternal Damnation, from ever speaking or revealing any thing that I have done

done to you in this place ; for
 you must know that the extreme
 affection I have towards you
 hath constrained me to it, but
 seeing I perceive you are unwill-
 ing to grant your consent, I will
 never mention it any more but
 this time. I assure you that in
 case you be pleased to correspond
 with my love I shall cause you to
 be elected Abbess of one of the
 most famous Abbies of this King-
 dom. But she answered him,
 that she would rather chuse to
 dye in a stinking Dungeon, ra-
 ther than take any other Lover
 besides him who suffered death
 for her upon the Cross, with
 whom she would rather suffer all
 the indignities and torments
 which the World and the Devil
 could inflict on her, than with-
 out

out him enjoy all worldly pleasure and treasure: And withall she desired him to forbear mentioning such discourse any more, or else she would declare all to the Abbess; but if he did so, she promised she would be silent.

After this manner was this wicked Pastour, or rather ravenous Wolf, defeated of his prey who notwithstanding that he might longer enjoy the sight of her whom he lusted after, he in an Hypocritical manner went to the Abbess and prayed her to command her Nunns to sing a *Salve Regina*, to the honour of that Virgin, on whom he relied all his hopes, which was done accordingly, but all the time of their singing this crafty Ruffian, shed abundance of tears, not out
of

of any devotion towards the
 blessed Virgin *Mary*, but out of
 regret and sorrow that he had
 conceived, in not having en-
 joyed his sweet *Mary* the Nun ;
 as for the Religious Nuns, think-
 ing he did it for the Love he
 had for the blessed Virgin *Mary*,
 they had him in great Veneration
 and esteemed him as a very holy
 Person, but as for Sister *Mary*,
 who knew his abominable hypo-
 crisy, prayed to God in her heart
 that he would confound him
 who made so light of the Pearl
 of Chastity. So this execrable
 Hypocrite, went his way to his
 Priory of Saint *Martins*, in which
 place the fire of his base Lust
 was not extinct, but rather kind-
 led every day more, and more
 and he left no stone unturned,
 that

that he might compass his wicked enterprize, and because he chiefly feared the Abbess who was a vertuous Lady; he contrived a way how he might remove her from that Monastery, and for that purpose he went towards Madam of *Vendosme*, who then did live at a place called *La-fere*, where she had Erected and founded a Convent of Nuns, by the name of Mount Olivet, And he as he was the chief Reformer made her understand that the Abbess of the said Mount Olivet, was not sufficient to Govern so great a Congregation, upon which words, the good Lady prayed him to name her one who was more able and more worthy of that Office. but he who required nothing else,
 Coun:

Counsell'd her to take, and make
 choice of the Abbess of *Gif*, she
 being the most vertuous and the
 best able in all the Kingdom of
France. Madam *de Vendosme*,
 did forthwith send for her, and
 committed to her the Govern-
 ment of her Monastery of Mount
Olivet. This Prior of *St. Mar-*
ins, who could command the
 Votes of all the Convent of *Gif*,
 caused her to be elected Abbess
 whom he liked best. Now af-
 ter this Election, he again went
 to the said Monastery to try once
 more, whether he by intreaty
 could gain the Love of Sister
Mary Herozet, but seeing that
 there was no hope, returned
 desperate to his priory of *St. Mar-*
in, in which place, partly
 to compass his end, and partly
 to

to revenge himself of her cruelty, and also lest his filthiness should be detected, he caused the Relicks of the said Convent to be stolen in the night, and char'd the Confessour of *Gist*, a very honest old man, as if he had stole them, and for that sent him to Prison, to *S. Martins*; in the while he had kept him Prisoner, he did subourn two Witnesses which ignorantly subscribed to all the Dictates of the Prior of *S. Martins* which were these: That in a certain Garden they had seen the said Confessour with Sister *Mary*, in an obscene act, the which he endeavoured to make the old Monk to confess: But he who knew right well all the mad pranks of his Prior, intreaded him he might

might have the liberty to plead
 his cause before a Congregation
 of all the Monks, and that in the
 presence of them all he would
 declare the long and the short
 of all he knew, but the Prior
 well knowing that the justificati-
 on of the said Confessour would
 prove his Condemnation would
 by no means condescend to his
 request ; but finding him firm
 and stiff in his purpose, did use
 him so severely and barbariously
 in Prison, that some say he died
 there, others that he forced him
 to abandon his order, and to-
 transport himself out of the King-
 dom of *France* ; however it be,
 he never was seen any more.
 When this Prior thought he had
 got such an advantage over Si-
 ster *Mary* he went to the Mo-
 naste-

nastery, where the Abbess being at his beck, durst contradict him in no kind of thing, and then he began to exercise his Authority of Visitour, he therefore caused all the Nunns to be brought before him one after another, that he might hear their depositions and confessions, but the turn of Sister *Mary* being come, who had lost her good Aunt, he began to tell her, Sister *Mary*, you know the crime whereof you are accused, and that your fair pretences, as if you was a singular model of Chastity, did avail you nothing, for it is evident enough, you are far from being that you would be reputed to be, but Sister *Mary*, with an undaunted courage answered him, let him that hath accused me

be brought before me, and
 you shall see whether he shall dare
 to persist in his accusation, but he
 presently replying, said: That
 there was no need of any more
 Testimonies, seeing the Con-
 fessor himself had already been
 convicted. Sister *Mary* answer-
 ed him: I do repute him to be so
 honest a man, that I think he
 would not wrong his Consci-
 ence, and the truth so far
 as to confess such a wickedness,
 and lye against me, but suppose
 the Case it was so, let him be
 brought before me, and I do un-
 dertake to prove the contrary to
 his Face. The Prior perceiving
 he could no way fright her, told
 her: I am your Father, and for
 this cause I desire to save your
 reputation; wherefore I remit
 the

the whole business to your Conscience ; but one thing I will ask you, and I conjure you upon pain of a mortal sin, to tell me ingeniously the truth, my question is whether you was a Virgin, when you was brought hither at first, she answered him again Father, when I came hither first, I was but five years of age, that age is a sufficient Testimony of my Virginity.

Well said Daughter, said he, since that time have you not lost that precious Jewel ? She protested she had not and that she never had any enticement but by him, but he said that he could not believe her, and that the business must be put to Tryal. What Tryal said she are you pleased to make of it ? Even the same Try-
all

Con- al that I used upon others said
 I ask he, for I am not constituted a
 upon visitour of the Souls only, but
 me of the Bodies also, most of your
 esti- Abbesses and Prioreesses did fall in-
 gin, to my hands, if you be a Virgin
 er at indeed, you need not be asham-
 gain ed of the Tryal of your Virgini-
 first, ty, the Tryal of the Pudding is
 that by the cut, and therefore lay
 y of your self upon the Bed, and
 he, turn all your Cloaths over your
 lost Face, but Sister *Mary* full of pas-
 pro- sion answered him, you have en-
 ne- tertained me with so many filthy
 by talks concerning the foolish af-
 ould fection you had for me, that I
 bu- have reason to believe you rather
 hat intend to snatch away the Flow-
 I to er of my Virginity than to try it;
 ry- wherefore I will have you know
 all that I will never consent to you
 Tryal^r,

Tryal, he then told her, that she was really excommunicated for refusing such obedience, which she was bound to yeeld according to the Rules of her Order and that unless she would consent, he would disgrace her openly before the whole Congregation, and declare all the wicked filthiness which had been committed between her and the Confessor- but she with an undaunted countenance answered him, *He that tryeth the Reins and the hearts of his Servants will render me more honour before him than you can take away from me before Men, wherefore seeing your wickedness is come so far, I will rather chuse you should satiate your malice against me, than you should fulfill your wicked intent*
upon

upon me. For I know full well that
 God is a just judge, and that he
 will avenge the cause of the op-
 pressed in his blessed time. He
 at that very time caused the Bell
 to be rung in order to gather
 together all the Congregation
 of the Religious Nuns, and ci-
 ted her to appear before him, and
 Sister Mary being come, was
 commanded to kneel down be-
 fore him, to whom he in a won-
 derful rage and spight said. Si-
 ster Mary, you grieved me in my
 heart, that all the good admoniti-
 ons I have hitherto given you, pro-
 ved fruitless and to no purpose, so
 that against my Nature I am
 forced to impose a penance upon
 you, for having carefully exami-
 ned your Confessor about some
 crimes whereof he was lawfully
 E accused,

accused, he bath plainly confessed before me that he had carnally abused your Person in the same place mentioned by the witnesses, who testified they saw the crime committed there. wherefore from that honourable degree wherein I had out of my good esteem constituted you, from the overseer and Mistress of the Novices, I ordain that you shall be removed the last of them all, and moreover, that you shall be fed with Bread and water on the bare ground before all the Nunns, untill that time your Crimes be expiated by true Repentance, your contrition may call for favour and mercy.

Now Sister Mary had been forewarned by one of the Nuns, who was her intimate Friend, and one who understood all the Intrigue,

Intrigue, that in case she pleaded for her self, and should cast out any word that should distaste the said Prior, that he would presently cause her to be thrown *in* *pace*, that is to say, into a perpetual Dungeon, she therefore patiently suffered this sentence, and lifting up her hands and eyes to Heaven, earnestly prayed to God the avenger of the innocent, beseeching him that as he had been her safeguard, and had hitherto afforded her grace to resist all the allurements unto sin, so he would be pleased to arm her with a Christian patience in her great tribulation. Moreover this Worshipful Prior commanded, that she within the term of three years ensuing, should not be permitted to speak to any of her

Parents or Kindred , if at any time they came to visit her, and that she should write no Letters but before the whole Congregation of Nuns: So that after this wicked wretch had fulfilled his rage against this innocent Maid, he went his way, and never came more there. This poor Nun was left a very long time in the disgrace and distress above mentioned ; but her Mother, who loved her even above all her other Children , seeing she heard no more of her, was in a great perplexity , and told one of her Sons, who was a wise and discreet Gentleman, that she believed her Daughter was dead, and that the Nuns, to the end they might still receive her yearly Pension, did conceal her death;

and

and withall intreated and commanded him to try all possible means whereby he might know what was become of his Sister, who forthwith repaired to the said Convent, and having questioned some of the Nuns concerning her, he was answered that his Sister was sick, and had kept her Bed three years, but he being a young man of an acute wit and quick parts, did not take their excuses for current money, but swore presently, that if he did not see her, he wou'd forthwith scale the Walls and force his passage through the Convent, at which words they were much affrighted, and in a peck of troubles, and therefore thought it their best way to bring her to the Gate, but the Abbess

did accompany her, and stood so
 near that she could reveal no-
 thing of her mind to her Brother,
 but she being wise and discreet
 had well foreseen that, and there-
 fore had secretly committed to
 writing all the passages before
 mentioned, and a thousand other
 stratagems which the said Pri-
 or had used on purpose to inveigle
 her, the which because they
 would be too long and too tedi-
 dious to rehearse, for brevity
 sake I will omit; but I must not
 forget mentioning that whilst
 her Aunt was yet Abbess, he
 thinking he had suffered a repulse
 because of his deformity, he caus-
 ed a young and beautiful Monk
 to intice this chaste Nunn to wick-
 edness, hoping, that if by Love
 she should yield to that young
 Monk,

Monk, he could afterwards win her by fear: This young Monk, entertained her with so vile discourses, and so obscene actions, in a Garden where he was with her, that I think myself obliged to spare chaste Ears, seeing I cannot relate them without a blush, inasmuch, that this honest poor Nun was forced to jump and run out of the Garden to the Abbess, who was then speaking with that Prior, and with a great outcry, told her, Dear Mother, they that come to visit our Convent are Devils under Religious Monks Couls. But then the Prior fearing lest his Roguery should be discovered, began a new Tale, and smiling, told the Abbess, Certainly, dear Mother, Sister *Marie's* complaint is very

just and reasonable, and taking Sister *Mary* by the hand, told her before the Abbess: I have long ago been informed that Sister *Maries* Clapper was hung exceedingly well, and that she had her neat speech so much at command, that she was reputed vain and worldly; wherefore, for that very reason, I forced myself against my natural inclination to entertain her with such vain discourses, wherewith worldlings are wont to intice their Peramours (which discourses I have read in Books, for by experience I am as ignorant of them, as I was in my Cradle,) and thinking that my old age together with my deformity did extort from her those vertuous expressions of hers, I did

did command my young Monk,
 he should entertain her with the
 same idle and vain discourses, the
 which notwithstanding she hath
 as you see, vigorously withstood,
 and therefore reputing her a ve-
 ry vertuous and discreet person,
 it is my will and desire, that
 henceforth she may enjoy the
 first place of Honour after you,
 and be constituted Mistress over
 all the younger Nuns, to the end,
 that by this encouragement her
 vertuous disposition may increase
 more and more, until it grow-
 eth to a perfect habit of Vertue.
 This act and many other pranks,
 did that reverend Ghostly Father
 play, during the space of three
 years in which he lusted after
 his chaste Virgin, the which (as
 is mentioned before) gave her
 Bro-

Brother through the Grate, the whole content of this doleful Narration, but her Brother having delivered it to her Mother, she being almost distracted, and almost desperate, came to *Paris*, and went presently to the Queen of *Navar*, the Kings only Sister, to whom she shewed this Tragical Narrative, and told her, Madam, repose no more your Trust upon such vile Hypocrites, I did believe I had plac'd my Daughter in the way to Heaven, but now I think I had brought her to the pit of Hell, in the hands of them that are worse than the worst of Devils that can be there, for the Devils can do no more than to tempt and intice us into sin, but these will draw us by force, if peradventure they by allure-

Allurements cannot Captivate
 our affections. The Queen of
Navarre was exceedingly trou-
 led, for she reposed her whole
 trust upon that Prior of *Saint*
Martins, to whom she had com-
 mitted the whole charge and o-
 versight of the Abbesses of *Mon-*
villicier and of *Caules*, who were
 Masters in Law. On the other
 side she detested the vileness of
 the fact with such aversion, that
 she undertook to vindicate the
 Innocency of that poor distress-
 ed Maid, and upon that account
 declared the whole business to
 the Kings Chancellour (who was
 at that time Legate in *France*)
 who sent for the said Prior, who
 being come could plead nothing
 for himself, but that he was
 three score and ten years of age,
 and

and addressing himself to the Queen of *Navarre*, he earnestly intreated by all the Love she ever had for him, and for a recompence of all his former services to her, she would be pleased to stop all the proceedings in Law against him, and that he was ready to confess openly that Sister *Mary Heron* was a pearl of honour, and a singular pattern of Heroick Chastity. The Queen having heard him, was so amazed that it was not in her Power to speak a word with him, but went her way and left him, but the wicked wretch confounded and covered with shame withdrew himself to his Monastery, where he would be seen of no body, and survived this shame but one year after.

A Fryer fraudulently marrieth another Fryer, his Companion, to a pretty Young Gentlewoman, and a while after they were both punished.

A French Gentlewoman was once at Padua, in Italy, to whom was reported, that in the Bithops, or Chapter-Goal, was a Fryer imprisoned; and inquiring after the reason (for she knew that every body talk'd of it, but for jests and laughings sake) was told that this Fryer being an elderly man, was a Confessour to a very honest Gentlewoman, and her husband. She was a Widow, and had but one Daughter, whom she loved so well, that no pains were so hard, but she did take them,

them, for that she might give
 her a Portion, and get her a
 good honest Husband: She see-
 ing her Daughter to grow up in
 years and body, was always de-
 sirous to get her a Husband, who
 might live with them both, in
 peace, and quietness, that is,
 that he might be a man of a good
 Conscience, as she deemed her
 self to be. And because she heard
 some sottish Preacher saying:
 That it was a great deal better to
 do bad by the advice of the Do-
 ctours, than good against the
 inspiration of the holy Ghost, she
 addresses her self to her Father
 Confessour, a man very ancient,
 and a Doctor in Divinity, for
 his Life and Conversation esteem-
 ed by all the people of the City,
 assuring her self, that by his ad-
 vice

ice and fervent prayers, she
 ould not fail of obtaining a re-
 ole for her, and her Daughter.
 and when she very much pressed
 on him, desiring him to choose
 ch a Husband for her Daugh-
 r, as was known to love God
 ove all, and to support his
 onour and good Name, with
 ertuous actions; he answered
 er; that for the first he will be-
 ke himself to implore the
 race and assistance of the Holy
 pirit, by prayers and fastings.
 and after the Lord would give
 ar to his prayers, he hoped to
 nd that out which she desired.
 After this the Fryer repaired to
 place for to contrive the mat-
 r. And because he had heard
 of the Dame, that she had five
 undred Ducats in a lump ready
 to

to be given to her Daughter
 Husband, and that she would
 take upon her self the Charge
 of their Victuals, of the furni-
 ture of the House of all house-
 hold stuff, and of paying Cu-
 stoms, he bethought himself
 how that he had a young fellow-
 Fryer, of a handsom shape, and
 loving looks, and concluded to
 give unto him the pretty Maid,
 the House, Goods, he being
 sure of Victuals, and other ne-
 cessaries, and to take the five
 hundred Ducats to himself, for
 to comfort and quench a little ar-
 dent Covetousness. And after
 he had spoke to his Companion,
 and found they were both of a
 mind, he returned to the Gentle-
 woman, and said: *I believe*
without any doubt that God hath
sent

sent to me his Angel Raphael, as
 he did to Tobias, for that I might
 find an accomplished Husband for
 your Daughter: For I'll assure you
 that I have on my side, the honest-
 est young Gentleman that ever
 was in Italy, who hath several
 times seen your Daughter, and is
 highly taken with her, that to
 say when I was in prayers, God
 sent him to me, and he declared
 to me that desire he had of being
 married with your Daughter: I
 know his Family, and his Parents
 and Relations, as likewise that he
 leads a notable good life, I have
 promised him to speak to you. 'Tis
 true he hath one inconvenience,
 which only I know of him; which
 is, That he willingly to rescue one
 of his Friends, whom another
 would have runthru, drew his
 Sword.

Sword, intending to part them but fortune ordered it so that he kill'd the other: Therefore he lest he might be taken and imprisoned escap'd from thence, being he was present at his being killed and by the advise of his Friends and near Relations, he is retired into this City, in a dress of a Schollar, where he keeps himself incognito, untill his Friends have compounded the matter, which he hopes will be shortly done, because of this, it will be most convenient the Marriage should be done privately, and that you should be contented, that at day times he may go to the publick Lectures, and as for night he will Sup and lie every night at your House.

Presently the good Woman answered him thus; Sir, I find

great advantage in what you
 all me, for at least I shall have
 at near me which I desire above
 things in the world. Which
 the Fryer did, and conducted him
 her in good order, in a brave
 suit of Crimson Sattin, wherein
 appeared very gallant; after
 they were come the made some
 short Complements. A minute
 was scarcely over, but the an-
 cient Fryer began to say the Mass,
 and that being done, he Married
 them; the young Couple went
 to Bed together, and lay till the
 very break of day, when the
 husband said to his Wife, that
 for fear of being known, he must
 be forced to go into the College.
 Having taken his Crimson Suite,
 and his long Gown, not forget-
 ting his black Cap, came to take
 his

his leave of his Wife, who was yet in her Bed, assuring her that he would come every night to sup with her, but as for Dinner she should not stay for him so he departed, leaving his Wife who esteemed her self the happiest Woman in the world, because she had lighted on such a Husband. The young married Father returned to his old Father, to whom he brought the five hundred Ducats, there where they had met together at the first when they were agreeing upon the terms of the marriage, and in the Evening did not fail to come to sup with her who thought him to be her husband and he could insinuate himself so well in her and in his Mother's kindness, that they would not

have

ve given him for the best
 ince in the world. This life
 ntinued for a while, but being
 e goodness of God taketh pity
 them that are trappaned be-
 uile of their credulity, it hap-
 ed that one morning both Mo-
 er and Daughter took a great
 fire to go to Mass at Saint *Pran-*
 , and to visit their Father
 onfessor, by the means of whom
 ey thought themselv's extreme-
 well provided, one of a beau-
 ful Son, the other of a loving
 usband. And by chance not
 nding their Confessor, nor any
 dy else of their acquaintance,
 ere resolved to hear high Mass,
 hich was just beginning, to see
 in the mean time he might not
 me: And amidst that the
 ung Dame, very earnestly at-
 tended

tended the Service, and over-weighed the mystery of it, the Priest turning about to say *Dominus Vobiscum*, she was quite surprized and astonished, for it seemed unto her that it was either her Husband or one very like him; but for all this she would not make a great bustle but stayd till he should turn about once more, and then she took a fuller view of him, and did not doubt but that it was he. Therefore she draws her Mother to her, that was in a deep contemplation, and says: Alas, Madam, what is that I see? The Mother asked her, what it was. It is my Husband, quoth she, that says the Mass, or a person that is the likest to him above any man in the World.

Th

The Mother that had not taken great notice of him, said, beseech you, good Daughter, let not such an opinion take place in your head. For it is a thing altogether impossible, that they who are Men, so holy should commit so great a trumpery. You'll sin greatly against God by giving credit to such an opinion as this. However, she resolved to observe his features, and when he came to say *Ita missa est*, she verily did see, that never two Brethren of one and the same Mother could be like, yet she was so simple still, that she freely said, God forbid I should believe what I see; but being very much touched with the love of her Daughter, would not let the business be unknown, therefore she resolved to find out the truth.

truth. Evening being come
 when the Husband was to return
 who had no way perceived them
 the Mother said to her Daughter
 If you will we shall know the
 truth about your Husband pre-
 sently; for when he shall be
 Bed, I'll come to the Chamber
 and stand behind him very easily
 without making him to hear
 you in the mean time shall take
 off his Night-Cap, and so we
 shall see if he hath such a shaven
 Crown as he had that said the
 Mals: And as she said, so she
 did: For as soon as the roguish
 Husband went to bed, the old
 Gentlewoman came in, and
 took hold of both his hands
 her Daughter in the mean time
 pulling off his Cap, discovered
 his pretty shaven pate. At which

th

the Mother and Daughter being
 extremely astonished, insomuch
 that they were not able to ex-
 press it, immediately called their
 servants, making them to take
 and bind him till morning, not
 regarding his excuses and fair
 words. The day being come,
 the Gentlewoman sent for her
 Father Confessor, feigning as if
 he had to impart to him some
 secret matters of great impor-
 tance. The Father came pre-
 sently, whom she made to be
 taken as well as the young one,
 reproaching him for cozening
 her so basely. And after this,
 she sent for some Justices, into
 the hands of whom she deliver-
 ed them both, being of that o-
 pinion, that if they had any Con-
 science, they would not let them
 F escape

escape unpunished. And according to their deserts the youngest was condemn'd to a perpetual Prison, and the Eldest suspended of his Office.

A Dean of Fiesola, is in Love with an handsom Widdow, and is beloved of her, and believing himself to lye with her, lyes with one of her Servant-Maids and the Bretheren make him to be catcht by the Bishop.

At Fiesola neere Florence next to the Cathedral, lived a Gentlewoman that was Widdow, called Madam Piccarda, in a pretty House, but not very large, she was a Gentlewoman very active, and stay

where the greatest part of the
 year, and with her two young
 Gentlemen her Brothers, very
 Gallant and Courteous. It hap-
 pened, that the Gentlewoman fre-
 quenting the Cathedral Church,
 and being yet very young,
 beautiful and pleasant, was e-
 spied by the Dean, who imme-
 diately fell in love with her, in
 so much that she was alwayes be-
 fore his Eyes. Afterwards, he
 was at a time in such a burning
 fire, that he himself discovered
 and opened his desires to her, be-
 seeching her that she would be
 content of his good inclinations,
 and love him as well as he did
 her. This Dean was old in years,
 but very young in wit and un-
 derstanding, graceless and high-
 spirited, he presumed very much

of himself, with his ways and
 customes, full of dislike and ted-
 iousness, and so importunate and
 brutish he was, that there was
 not one Person that wish'd him
 well, and if there was any that
 wish'd him well, this Gentle
 woman was such, that she not
 only meant him not one jot of
 good will, but also hated him
 above the very head-ake. There-
 fore She being a wise Gentlewoman
 man, answered him thus, Sir be-
 cause you do love me, I do take
 it very kindly, and am bound
 to love you also, and frankly
 profess I do like you, provided
 that no dishonesty may passe be-
 twixt us. You are my Ghostly
 Father, and a Priest, and are
 drawing very near to old age
 wherefore you ought to follow
 things

things honest and chaste ; and
 on the other side, I am not a
 childe, and therefore these
 harms of love do not very well
 agree with my condition, I be-
 ing a Widdow, as you know,
 either are you ignorant what
 honesty is required in a Wid-
 ow, therefore I desire you to
 excuse me, for at that rate as you
 desire me to love you, I will
 never doe it, neither doe I de-
 sire to be loved by you. The
 Dean not being able at that time
 to draw any thing more besides
 that out of her, did not stee
 himself as a forlorne man, or cast
 at the first Tryal, but set in acti-
 on his usual pretence, Sollici-
 ting her both by Letters and
 messengers, and moreover did
 the same when he see her com-

ming into the Church. The Gentlewoman seeming to the Gentlewoman very hard, and tedious to her be endured, she thought to free her self from them by such means as the Dean deserved (since she could not do otherwise.) But she would put nothing to work, before she had spoke of it to her Brothers, and to to tell them as well what the Dean did about her, as what she had determined to do. And having obtained from them a full Licence of the same, after few days she went to the Church according to her custom. Which the Dean seeing, presently did go towards her, and as he had been used, after the manner of a near Friend or relation, did enter with her into some talk. The Gentlewoman

Gentlewoman seeing him com-
 ing, and looking at him, shew'd
 him a very pleasant counte-
 nance, and having retired to a
 place, after the Dean had spoke
 to her a great many things ac-
 cording to his fashon, the Gen-
 tlewoman, having made a great
 sigh, said; Master Dean, I have
 very often heard there is no
 Castle so strong, which being
 besieged and stoutly assualted
 should not sometimes be taken,
 which I see accomplished in my
 self, for now by your sweet
 words, then with your pleasant
 Countenance, sometimes with
 one change, sometimes with a-
 nother, you have so environ'd
 me, that you made me to break
 my former resolution, so that I
 am at this present disposed

to be yours according to your own will and pleasure. The Dean lifted up with joy beyond his feare, said, Madam I render hearty thanks to you, but when and where can we be together. To which the Gentlewoman replied; my sweet Sir, it may be when you have a mind to, and what hour you will be pleas'd to appoint, for I having no Husband, I have no occasion to give an account of my nightly seasons, but I cannot best think where it may be done. The Dean said, how now, why may it not be in your House? The Gentlewoman answered, Sir, you know, that I have two young Brothers, which both day and night come to my House with their Comrades, moreover

Moreover my House is but ve-
 ry little, and therefore I do not
 know how you may be there,
 unless you will be there as one
 that's dumb, without moving or
 stirring, and be in the dark af-
 ter the fashion of blind Men, if
 you will do that you may. For
 I cannot place you in my Cham-
 ber, but they (their Cham-
 ber being next to mine) may
 hear the least word we speak,
 or stirring we make. The
 Dean presently answered, Ma-
 dam, notwithstanding all this
 let us not leave the sport for a
 night or two, until I may be-
 think my self, where and in
 what part we may be with a
 greater Liberty. The Gentlewo-
 man answered, this I leave to
 you, but I beg one thing at your
 hands,

hands, that all this may be secret, and that no body should know what we speak together. The Dean answered again, Madam do not doubt of that, and if it be possible agree, that we may be together this same Evening. The Gentlewoman said ; I am satisfied, and she gave him orders, when and in what manner he should come; so she departed from him and went home. This Gentlewoman had one of her servants which was not very young already, and had a very ugly look with her, and so disfigured as any Woman in the World; for she had a Nose as an Eagle and a wrye mouth, broad Lips, the Teeth quite out of order, and as well big, as black, and her Breath stunk most abominably,

ominably, moreover her Eyes
 were always dropping, and her
 face was all yellow and green,
 and above all this she was crook-
 ed, and somewhat lame on her
 right side, and her Name was
Porca. And as well as she was
 disfigured as to her Person,
 so she was somewhat malicious,
 whom the Gentlewoman call'd
 to her self and said, heark you
Porca if you will do me one
 Service to night, I'll give thee
 a brave new Smock, *Porca* hear-
 ing mention made of the Smock,
 answered, Madam if you give
 me a Smock, I will throw my
 self into the fire, besides any
 thing else you will be pleas'd to
 command me. Well, saith the
 Gentlewoman, I will have you
 to lye this night with a man in
 my

my own Bed, and I desire you to coaks him up, but take heed least you make any stir for fear you should be heard by my Bretheren, for you know they lye next to my room, and then I will give you the Smock. The *Porca* answered, What matter is it if I lye with six, not only with one. The Evening being come, Master Dean came according as he had been appointed, and the two young Gentlemen according to what they agreed to, were in their own Chamber, and made a noyse, for that they might be heard. Wherefore the Dean very easily in the dark entered the Gentlewomans Chamber, and as she had told him went to Bed, and on the other side laid Madam *Porca*, who was well informed

informed by her Mistris how to act her Part. Mr. Dean believing he had the Gentlewoman at his side, kindly embraced Madam Porca. This the Gentlewoman having performed, she charged her Brothers, to do the Remnant of this Comedy. Who going very quietly out of their Chamber, went towards the Marker, and fortune, in what they had under hands favoured them above their Desires, for it being very hot Weather, the Bithop had asked for them two young Gentlemen, that so he might go to their House, and drink with them. But he seeing them come, having obtained his desire, went directly with them, and entred into a cold Vault of theirs, where there was a great many

many Candles burning, and there he drunk a Glafs of their good Wine, with very great satisfaction. After he had drunk it, the young Gentlemen said, My Lord, since you have been pleased to shew us this kindness, as to dignifie us with your Presence in this our small Cottage, into which we was coming to invite you. We desire you, that it may please you, to go to a little Chamber of ours. which we are ambitious to shew you. The Bishop answered, he would willingly consent to it. Presently one of the young Gentlemen, taking a lighted Torch into his Hand, and going before him, the Bishop and all the rest following him, did directly go towards the Chamber, where Master Dean
did

did lie with Madam *Porca*. So
 the young Gentleman entred in
 to the Chamber, the Bishop after
 him, and after the Bishop all the
 Train; to whom Master Dean
 with Madam *Porca* in his Arms
 was exhibited. Master Dean be-
 ing discovered in that nature, and
 seeing the Candle and all the
 People about him, being extream-
 ly ashamed, and not less afraid,
 did put his Head under the
 Sheets. To whom the Bishop
 spoke extream angrily, calling
 him a Villain and a Rogue, and
 made him to put out his Head
 from under the Sheets, for that he
 might see who he lay withal. The
 Dean seeing himself to be cozen-
 ed by the Gentlewoman; either
 for that, or else for shame of be-
 ing chidden (as he thought it
 would

would happen) suddenly grew as sad as can be imagined; and having put his Cloaths on, by the Commandment of the Bishop, was sent to Prison, for to suffer there a Punishment answerable to his deserts. Afterwards the Bishop desired to know, how this business came about, that he went to lye with *Madam Parca*. The young Gentlemen told him all the circumstances of the Matter. Which the Bishop having heard, praised much the Gentlewoman, and the Gentlemen also, that without being desirous to defile their Hands in the Blood of the Fryer, had treated him according to what he deserved.

Fryer

Fryer Rinaldo, lyeth with his Gossip, whom her Husband finds together in the Chamber, they making him believe, that the Fryer had Conjured some Worms out of their Childs Belley.

AT *Siena*, there was a young Gentleman, very gallant, and of a good Family, whose Name was *Rinaldo*, that fell in Love with a Neighbour of his, a Gentlewoman of a great Beauty, and a Wife to a very rich Man; Who hoping to find out a way, to speak to her without any Suspicion; and thereby to obtain his desire, did not see any other, besides that he might come to be her Gossip, the Gentlewoman being at that time big with Child, so he made himself acquainted

quainted with her Husband after the best manner he could, and in a very honest way he told him his Ambition, and the business was done. Now *Rinaldo* being Gossip of *Madam Agnetta*, and having under this colour got a very good occasion of talking with her, resolved to make her know his Intention by words, which she a long time ago had perceived out of the motion of his Eyes. But he effected very little, though it was not unpleasant to the Gentlewoman to hear him thus talking. Not long after it happened that *Rinaldo* (whatsoever the occasion was) became a Fryer. And it tell out, that he for some time put his love aside, which he bore to his Gossip, as likewise some other of his Vanities; but in process of time,

time, reassumed that same Habit which he never had put off before, and began to delight in outward Apparel, and to make himself Suits of the best Cloath, and to be gallant and handsome in all his things, and to make Songs, Ballads and Sonnets, and to sing the same, with other things of the like nature, which he was full of. So that at last, his former Appetites being come again to him, he began oftentimes to visit his Gossip, and his boldness very much increasing above the first, he also began to Sollicit her for that which he was desirous to obtain from her. The good Gentlewoman being so much and so often Sollicated, and Fryer *Rinaldo* appearing a great deal handsomer than before, was, above the rest, one day so much saluted by him

that it came to pass; she became willing to do all those things which he demanded of her, and said; *How now Father Rinaldo, does the Fryers do also such things.* To which he Replied, *Madam, as soon as ever I pull this Cap down my Back, which I can do very easily, I'll appear before you a Man as well as the rest, and no Fryer.* The Gentlewoman began to Smile, and said; *O Sadness! You are my Gossip, how can you do this? You'll Commit a great Wick- edness by it, and I have heard it is a great Sin, and indeed if that would not be, I would do whatsoever you should desire.* Whereunto Fryer Rinaldo answered; *You are a Sot, if you leave it because of that. I do not say it is no Sin, but God forgives greater than this to them that Repent.* But tell me
 which

Which of us is more a Father to your
 Son, I that held him at the Bap-
 tism, or your Husband, that be-
 got him? The Gentlewoman an-
 swered: My Husband is more a
 Father to him. Thou say well, quoth
 the Fryer, and doth not your Hus-
 band lie with you. Sure enough,
 answers the Gentlewoman. Then
 the Fryer saith again, And I that
 am the lesser Father of your Son,
 which your Husband is not, I may
 lie with you as well as he. The
 Gentlewoman that understood
 no Logick, and had but small Dif-
 ficulties against it, she either be-
 lieved or seemed to believe, that
 the Fryer spoke truth, and answered;
 Who is able to give an answer
 to your wife discourse? And after
 that, notwithstanding their Gos-
 sipship, she gave him leave to do
 what he pleased. Neither was it
 done

done at the first time, but under a cover of Gossiping having a better opportunity, the Suspicion being less, they very often met together. Amongst the next it hapned once that Fryer *Rinaldo* being come to the Gentlewomans House, and seeing no body there, besides a Maid of hers very Pretty and Complaisant, he sent his Companion with the Maid above Stairs, he going with the Gentlewoman that had her Child in her Arms, into a Chamber, and having lock't themselves up thus within, set down upon a Bed standing there, and began to talk one with another. They sitting there in that manner, it fell out the Gossip came home, and without being perceived or heard by any, goeth to the Chamber Door, and knocking at it,

calls

calls his Wife, *Madam Agnetta* (for that was the Name of the Gentlewoman) hearing this, said; Now I am gon, for here is my Husband, now he shall see what the reason is of this our Familiar Housing. Fryer *Rinaldo* was all undressed, without his Coull and Scapular, only in his wast-cote, who hearing this, said; you say well, if I were drest we might find out some way or other to clear the matter, but if you should open to him now, and he find me thus, we shall have no excuse for it. The Gentlewoman, being supported by a sudden Invention, said; *Dress your self quickly, and after that, take the Child upon your Arms, and take good heed of what I will say to him, that so your words may agree with mine, and then leave the business*

business to me. The good Man had scarcely left of to knock, but the Woman answered; *I am coming,* and having risen, with good Countenance, runs to the Chamber Door, and having opened the same, said; *Dear Husband I do tell you how our Gossip Rinaldo is come hither, and I think God sent him hither, for surely if he had not come hither, we had lost our dear Child this very same day.*

When this Jack Adams had heard all this, he all amazed, said, and why so pray? O Husband, answers the Woman, a sudden fit did fall upon him so extremely, that I thought he would have dyed; not knowing either what to say or do, in the mean time comes Father Rinaldo, our Gossip, and having taken him about the neck, said,

Gossip

Gossip it is Worms he is troubled
 withall, which coming near the
 heart, make him so weak and ill
 disposed, but be not afraid, for
 I will conjure them, and make
 them all to dye, and before I
 depart from hence you'll see the
 Child as well as ever you saw
 him in your life; and because
 we were to say some certain
 Prayers, and our Servant could
 not find you, I made his Com-
 panion to say them in our Garret,
 and I with him went in here,
 and because no body but the
 Childs Mother was to be pre-
 sent, for fear others should spoil
 the business, we lockt our selves
 in, and as yet he hath the Child
 in his arms, and I believe he
 stays for nothing else but that
 his Companion should finish his
 Prayers, and so the business
 G should

should be at an end, for the Child
 is quite recovered again. The
 good *Tom Toast* believed all this,
 the love of the Child constrain-
 ing him so, that he did not per-
 ceive his Wifes deceitful tricks,
 but having made a great Ggh, said
 I will go and see. The Gentle-
 woman answered; Do not go,
 for may be you will spoil what's
 done; stay here, I'll go and see
 if you can come there, and I'll
 call you. Fryer *Rinaldo*, that
 had heard all the matter, and
 had drest himself, and was in
 good posture, having re-taken
 the Boy into his arms, and set
 all things in order, calls; O Gos-
 sip, do not I hear our Gossip talk-
 ing there? The Simpleton an-
 swers, I Sir, I. Presently Father
Rinaldo said, Come in Sir. So
 the Husband enters; to whom
Rinaldo

Rinaldo thus said, Take here your Son, by the grace and mercy of God, fresh and sound; for a little ago I thought you should not have seen him alive till Evening, and caus'd to be made a Statue of Wax about his bigness, for the honour of God, and set it by the Image of *S. Ambrosius*, for the merits of whom God hath shew'd you that mercy. The Infant seeing his Father, ran towards him, and played merrily about him, as little Infants commonly use to do. Who taking him into his arms, cryed no less than as if he had newly drawn him out of the Grave, began to embrace and kiss him, and to render many thanks to his Gossip who had cured him. The Comrade of Fryar *Rinaldo*, who in the mean time had taught the

G 2

young

young Maid more than four Pa-
ter-nosters, and given her a white
 Parle of Net-work, which
 Nun had given him, and by this
 same made her to be devoted to
 him, hearing this good Coxcomb
 talking in the Gentlewomans
 Chamber, came down very easi-
 ly to a Corner, where he could
 see and hear what they were do-
 ing there; and seeing the mat-
 ter to stand at very good terms,
 came quickly in, and entring in-
 to the Chamber said Father Ri-
naldo, the four Prayers you laid
 upon me I have said them all.
 To whom Fryer *Rinaldo* answer-
 ed, Brother, you have a very
 good wind, and have done it
 well. As for me, when my Gos-
 sip was come, I had not said a-
 bove two. But it hath pleased
 God as well for thine as my pains
 to

Pa grant that mercy, as to restore
 the Child to his former health.
 The good Simpleton made good
 Wines and Comseits to be
 brought, and shewed a deal of
 respect to his Gossip and to his
 Comrade, who had more need
 of them things than the other.
 Afterwards they departed, and
 commended him to the protecti-
 on of God, who without any de-
 lay made an Image of Wax, and
 sent it to the Church, for that it
 might be hung up by the Picture
 of Saint *Ambrosius*, but not of
 him of *Milan*.

*A Boat-woman wittily escapeth
 from the hands of two Monks
 which went about to ravish her
 and how their wickedness came
 to be known to all.*

I N port of *Coullon*, near the
 City of *Nyort*, in *France*,

there was a Boat-woman, who by day, and sometimes by Night used to carry folks over the River. Now it came to pass, that two Monks of the said City of *Nyort*, did pass the River, all alone, but she and them; and because the passage is one of the longest that be in *France*, that they might take off the tediousness of the way, they began to Court her, to whom she returned such an honest answer as her Duty and good Conscience required; but they neither tired with their day's travelling, nor cooled by the coldness of the Water, and being also ashamed of the repulse the woman had given them, resolved both to get her by force, and in case she repined, to throw her over board into the River: But she being as wise and witty,

as they were foolish and wicked, told them. Sirs, before we proceed farther, I intreat you to grant me two things, and then you shall perceive that I have a greater desire to grant your desire than you have to crave it, the Fryers swore by their good Saint *Francis*, that if she would answer their request, there was nothing that they were not ready to grant. First and formost, said she, I require that you promise and swear that you shall reveal the matter to no man living, and that they very willingly granted; my other request (said she) is, that when we enjoy our amorous imbraces, there may be but one of you with me, for I should be too much ashamed if both of you saw me together in the act; agree therefore betwix

your selves, which of you must enjoy me the first, they both thought this also very reasonable and just, and therefore the youngest being very mannerly gave the right of precedency to to his Elder, whereupon she be taking her self to her Oars, made towards a little Island, where being come, she landed the youngest there, and told him, say your prayers, here untill I carry your Companion yonder, into that little Island over against us, and in case I have well pleased him, when we come back you and I will *solace* our selves in the same place he therefore was contented to tarry there, expecting the return of his fellow Fryer, whom the Ferry woman carried to the other little Island; and when they were come

to Land the Ferry Woman making
 as if she had been tying her Boat,
 Dear Sir, go first to Land and said
 look for a commodious place,
 where we may seal our mutual
 affections. This reverend Ghostly
 Father jumpt merrily out, that
 he might sacrifice to his Goddess
Venus, but as soon as she saw
 him landed, she with her foot
 kickt against a Tree, an so in her
 Boat made towards the River,
 leaving these two holy Fathers
 in the two Islands to cool their
 heels, to whom also she with as
 loud a voice as she could cried
 out, Gentlemen pray tarry there
 till some Angel come down to
 comfort you, but from me you
 are not like to receive any more
 solace. Now these two wretch-
 es perceiving themselves to be so
 bately gulled, fell on their knees

upon the water side earnestly beseeching her, that she would take them again, and carry them to the other side of the River they would trouble her no more with their requests; but she rowed away, telling them that the scalded Cat dreads the cold Water; and she being come to her Town, informed her Husband of all their mad pranks who having made his complaints to the Magistrate, who sent his Officers to the pursuit of these two greedy Wolves, out of whose venomous jaws this harmless sheep was by the great goodness of the Almighty, happily escaped. The Officers went away exceeding well accompanied, which these Ruffians seeing, hid themselves each of them in his own Island, even as *Adam* did, when

he

e heard the voice of God his ma-
 er. So that for shame of being
 guilty of so foul an act, but chief-
 for fear of condigne punish-
 ment, they were above half
 dead, but notwithstanding they
 were taken and let to prison, the
 people all the way deriding and
 scoffing at them: Men said, these
 hypocrites make Conscience of
 touching Silver or Gold Coin,
 but they make no scruple of fin-
 eering our Wives middle pieces,
 others said, they are painted
 sepulchers without, but with-
 in are full of rottenness and pu-
 trefaction; and another cryed
 out, by their fruits one may know
 them: In short all the places of
 the holy Scripture, commonly
 quoted against dissembling Hy-
 pocrites were applied to these
 miserable Prisoners, the which
 by

by the procurement and intreat
of their Prior were delivered
out of prison, for he coming to
the Magistrate in great haste, did
assure him upon his Parole that he
would severely punish them ac-
cording to the enormity of their
Crime, and also that he might
give some satisfaction to the
wronged party, he protested
that he and his Fryers would say
as many prayers and dirges as
should be imposed upon them.
Wherefore the Judge granted his
request and granted the Priso-
ners should be delivered to him
and indeed the Prior being a man
of some honesty cheet and pun-
isht them so severely, that from
that time forth they never durst
cross the River before they had
blessed themselves with the Signe
of the Cross, and commended
themselves to God.

A Fryer falls into a Sin deserving
great punishment, and wittily
intangling his Abbot into the
same Fault, was acquitted.

AT Lunigiana, near Florence,
there was a Monastery of
Fryers, amongst whom was a
young Monk, whose Vigour and
Courage neither Fasting could
appeale, nor Vigils extinguish.
This young Fryer once in the
midst of the day, when the rest
were all asleep, had a mind to
take a walk by himself to his
Church, which stood in a place
very solitary. Going thither, by
chance he espied a very fair
young Maid (perhaps a Daughter
to one of the Labourers in that
place) going up and down the
H Fields,

Fields, gathering some certain Flowers. At the very first sight of her he was presently assaulted by the Concupiscence of the flesh and therefore approaching nearer to her, he entred into discourse with her; and falling out of one matter into another, he at last agreed with her, and without being perceived by any, carried her into his own Cell. In the meantime, being transported with exceeding joy, he did not use that quietness which such matters require. The Abbot being wakened by his noise, and going softly to the Cell, perceived by hearing them discourse that there was some body with him; and that that he might the better hear what they said, he approached very quietly to the Door to hearken

hearken, where he plainly per-
 ceived a Woman to be within
 the Chamber. At the first he
 had a Design to make the Fryer
 open the Door; but afterwards
 thinking he could order him o-
 therwise, he resolved to return
 to his own Chamber, and watch
 when the Fryer should come
 forth: Who being entertained
 with the greatest pleasures and
 delights by his young Mistress,
 suspected nothing: But presently
 hearing a kind of a rushing in
 the Dormitory, he peep'd thorow
 a little hole, and did plainly see
 the Abbot stand and hearken. He
 could not but conclude for cer-
 tain, that the Abbot did know
 the young Maid to be in his
 Chamber; and therefore fore-
 tasting the ensuing penance for

his mildemeanour, was sorry above measure ; yet still he would not alter his countenance before the Maid, but revolving many things in his mind, if perhaps one of them might serve his turn, he at last found out a new trick, which he immediately put into execution ; for dissembling as if he had staid too long with this young Woman, he spoke to her in this manner : I will go now and see how you may get out of this place without being seen ; therefore hold your peace until my coming again. So going out, he shut the door after him, and lock'd it with his Key, and going directly to the Abbots Chambers, presented the same to him, according to the custom of the Monks when they went abroad.

broad: Which having done, he
 did thus to the Abbot; Mon-
 seigneur, I could not make all the
 Wood (as I had ordered) to be
 brought in this Morning; and
 therefore, with your leave, I'll
 go my ways and cause the rest to
 be brought. The Abbot, that
 he might be better satisfied about
 the Fryer's committed Fault,
 whom he thought not to have
 perceived any thing that he
 knew of the matter, was very
 glad of this occasion; and wil-
 lingly receiving the Key, gave
 him leave to go. Seeing him
 gone forth, he began to consider
 what was best to do, whether to
 open the Fryer's Chamber in the
 presence of all the Monks, and
 to make them see his default, so
 to escape the danger of being

murmur'd against, in case he should put a condign punishment upon the Fryer; or else to get first out of her the circumstances of the whole business: And being thinking himself, that she might be a Gentlewoman, or a Virgin of that Degree, Quality, or Family, as he would not willingly put such an affront upon, as to expose her shamelessly to the view of all the Fryers, he determined with himself to see first what she was, and then to let her go. So he quietly went to the Cell, opened it, entered, and shut the door after him. The young Maid, seeing the Abbot coming in, all astonish'd, and trembling for shame, began to cry. Monsieur Abbot casting his eyes upon her, and seeing her fair and brisk,

not-

Notwithstanding his old age, suddenly felt the same Inchantments of the Flesh within him; which he thought his young Fryer had been subject to ; and approaching near to the young Maid, he began in plain terms to comfort her, and to beseech her she should not cry ; and so falling out of one Discourse into another, he at last arrived to the opening of his ardent Desires.

The young Woman, who had a Heart not of Steel or Diamond, was willing by all means to please the Abbot. The Monk, who had feign'd himself to have been gone for Wood, being in the Dormitory, when he saw the Abbot entring into his Chamber by himself, altogether ravished for joy, judged that his contri-

vance would take good effect; whereof he the rather assured himself, because he saw the Abbot lock the Chamber door on the inside; and leaping out of his hidden place, he went softly to the Key hole, through which he both saw and heard what the Abbot did and said. The Abbot thinking at last he had staid long enough with his young Lady, opened the Cell door, and returned to his Chamber: And by chance seeing the Fryer, and supposing he had been returned from the Wood, concluded within himself to reprove him sharply, and to send him to Prison, for that he by that means might only himself be possessor of this newly-gotten prey. In order to this, he caused him to be called, and

and having reprov'd him severely, with a lowr look commanded him to be carried to Prison. The Fryer very readily gave him this Answer; *Monsieur*, I have not been so long in the Order of *St. Bennet*, as to know all the particular Rules belonging to it; but as soon as you will be pleas'd to shew me the same, I promise (provided you pardon me this Fault) never to trespass any thing against it but rather to do always what I have seen you doing. The Abbot, who was a witty Man, did presently see, that he had not onely perceived something more of him than was expedient, but that he likewise had seen what he had done: Therefore feeling a remorse in his own conscience, he would not condemn the Monk

for that fault which he was guilty of himself. So he granted him a pardon, and charged him to keep Silence, having honestly conveyed the young Maid out of the Cloyster, whom they made often to return again.

An Abbess riseth in haste, and goeth to surprize a Nun (accused before her) in Bed with her Lover; and her self being with a Priest, thinking to have put on her head a Vail, did put on the Breeches of the Priest, which the Arraigned Gentlewoman seeing, and bidding to unloose them, was acquitted, and granted the liberty to accompany her Gallant.

THere is in Lombardy, a very Famous Monastery, where

where amongst other Religious Gentlewomen, was one not less esteemed for her admirable Beauty, as for her Noble Parentage. This *Habella* (so was the Gentlewoman's Name,) came once to one of her Parents to the Grace, and seeing there a pretty and well shap'd Gentleman with him, instantly fell in Love with him. On the other side she seeming a most Accomplished and Peerless Dame in his Mind, did convey that Fire into his Heart, which by her Looks, was kindled in his Eyes. These Sparks of Mutual Inclination, as fruitless, were for a long time on both sides smothered in their Bosoms. At last, both being extreamly solicitous, how to accomplish their Desires, it fell out the young Gentleman found

found out a way, whereby to give a secret Visit to his Lady. This was very often Practised, with the greatest satisfaction imaginable on both sides. In pursuance of those their Visits it hapned one Night, that a Nun of that same House did espy him, without taking any notice of either of them, both how he entered into and departed out of *Isabella's* Chamber, which she made many others privy to; and was the first that gave counsel of Accusing *Isabella* before the Abbess. This *Adams* *Isibalda* (so was the Abbesses Name) was a good and a holy Virgin, as well in the Opinion of the Nuns, as of all her acquaintance. Moreover these aforelaid Nuns, (to the end no denial should have any place)

concluded to bring them both to the view of the Abbess. And in order to that, they secretly past by the Watches and Guards, for to surprize these Lovers. Now *Isabella* being innocent of their Devices, nor having any Information of their Plot, it hapned one Night, that she appointed him to come, and her Lover not knowing of any Plot against him, did submit to what they had agreed to. These two Lovers having been a small while together, and the Night having past over the greatest part of her silence, the aforesaid watching Dames, were divided into two parts, one of them betaking themselves to guard the Door of *Madam Isabella's* Chamber, the other running to the Cell of the Abbess, knockt

knockt at her Door, (which the Abbess heard) saying; *Quickly Maadam, Rise quickly, for we have found Isabella, to have a young Gentleman in her Cell.*

That same Night the Abbess had been accompanied by a Priest, whom as often as she pleased, made him to be brought to her in a Chest. The Abbess hearing that, and fearing lest the Nuns, either because of her delay, or by their continual and hard knocking should break open the Door, riseth immediately, and at the best advantage dresseth her self rashly, and believing she had taken a foulded Vail; which they use to wear on their Heads, and commonly call it a *psalter*, chanced to take the Priests Breeches, and so great
was

was the fear, that without any
 heed or earnest attention, in-
 stead of a *Psalter*, she put them
 on her Head, and so rush'd out
 of Doors, which she immediate-
 ly shutting after her, said; *where*
is this Wretch, I pray, where is she?
 The Nuns being accended with
 an earnest desire of making the
 Abbess to find *Isabella* in her fault,
 did take no notice of what she
 had on her Head, but run to the
 door of *Isabella's* Chamber, and
 with the help of their Compani-
 ons forced it open, and entering
 further, found these two Lovers
 in their Naked Bed. They be-
 ing so suddenly surprized, were
 astonish'd beyond measure, and
 not knowing what to begin in
 that case, resolv'd to continue
 steadfast. The young Gentle-
 woman,

woman, was by other Nuns immediately apprehended, and by the order and command of my Lady Abbess, carried to the Chapter. The young Gentleman staid there, and having put on his Cloaths, was desirous to see what an end this same business might have, with an intention to play the basest sport with them that ever was done, in case they should do any mischief to his Beloved, and then to carry her away.

The Abbess afterwards set down in the Chapter, in the presence of all the Nuns, (which had only bent their Eyes upon the Guilty) and in the meantime began to lay to Isabell's Charge, such kind of Villanies, as she said, were never done before,

re, by a Woman of her profes-
 sion and Quality. As namely,
 how she by her sordid and blame-
 worthy Deed, had Desi'd, and
 weakened the Sanctity, Honesty,
 and the creditable Name of the
 Monastery : And that the
 matter should appear more
 mainous, these Exprobrations
 were attended, by many great
 and weighty Threatnings. The
 young Gentlewoman not less
 Shameful than fearful, after the
 rate of the guilty, bereaved al-
 most of all her Sences, did not
 know what to answer, but being
 silent, gave her self over to the
 Mercy and Compassion of her
 Sisters the Nuns. But the Ab-
 bess Upbraiding and Amplifying
 the matter, it chanced the Gen-
 tlewoman lifted up her Eyes, and
 espied

espied what the Abbess had upon her Head, as also the Kneestings of the Breeches hanging down on both the sides of her Neck, which she well perceiving what they were, all in a kind of fury, said, *God help you Madam, unloose your Vail, and as then talk to me whatsoever you please.* The Abbess which did not understand her meaning, said; *what Vail, you guilty Wretch, what Vail? have you a mind to Feast? You are not at present upon such a Stage, as to act the Merry Andrew! Your filthy Actions admit no Jokin-ings!* The young Gentlewoman did nevertheless repeat her former Tale, saying; *Madam, I beseech you, you may be pleased to unloose your Vail, and then say what you list.*

Hence

Hence many of the Nuns,
 being envited to turn *[their Eyes*
 towards the Head of the Abbess,
 and her self also by putting her
 hands to her Head perceived why
Isabella had spoke thus. The Ab-
 bess now seeing as well her self
 to be in the very same fault, as
 that all the Nuns had taken no-
 tice of it, did not know whi-
 ther to turn, or what to say, but
 with an exceeding low Voice, and
 quite in another manner as be-
 fore, spoke modestly to them,
 concluding, *that it was impossi-*
ble to avoid the Darts of the Flesh.
 Therefore with a grave and peace-
 able Countenance, she said; *that*
every one of them (as heretofore
 had been Practised,) *should take*
advantage of the time when they
could. So having freed the young
 Gen-

Gentlewoman, she returned to Bed to her Priest, and *Isabella* to her Darling.

A strange and a new way of Penitence, which was to be Inflicted by a Father Confessor upon a young Gentlewoman.

THAT Year when Lady Margaret of Austria went to *Cambray*, in the behalf of her Nephew the Emperour, for to capitulate a Peace betwixt him and the *Most Christian King*, on whose side was *Madam Lovisa* of *Savoy*, there was in the Company of the said Lady Margaret, the Countess of *Aquemont*, who brought in her Company the most Beautiful Damsels of *Flanders*.

ders. The Countess retired for a
 while with all her Train, into
 her own House, and the time of
 Advent being come, she sent to a
 Covent of Fryers, demanding a
 sufficient Preacher, and one that
 was of a good Life, as well for
 Preaching as for Confessing her
 and all her Train. The *Guardian*
 search'd for the best and the most
 worthy of that Office, because
 of the great good they received
 from the House of *Aquemont*,
 and of *Pienne*, out of which she
 was come. They, who amongst
 all other Religious, desire to gain
 a good name, and affection of
 great Families, sent a Preacher
 very much esteemed for Learn-
 ing above the rest of the Fry-
 ers, who all the time of the Ad-
 vent discharg'd his duty very
 well,

well, so that the Countess was very well satisfied with him. The Night before *Christmas*, when the Countess would have received her Creator, she made her Confessor come to her, and after she had Confessed in a Chappell very well shut, by reason the Confession was very secret, she gave place to her Lady of *Honour*, who after she had done, sends her Daughter, to the merciful Absolution of her Father Confessor. And after she had told him all she knew, the good Father, having heard some of her Secrets, took a heart and a Courage to appoint her such a Penitence which was not usual, and said to her, *My Daughter your Sins are so great that for the satisfaction of them I'll inflict upon you that Penance*

viz That you mu^t bear my Cords
all Night long upon your Naked
Boay. The Gentlewoman, that
would not be disobedient, said
to him; Give it me Father, and
I will not refuse to wear it. Not
so my Daughter, said the good Fa-
ther, it will be of no efficacy, if it
be done by you. 'Tis necessary that
my own hands, before you receive
any absolution, bind it about you,
and afterwards you shall be absol-
ved of all your Sins. The Gen-
tlewoman beginning to crie, said;
That she would do it by no means.
How now, saith the Fryer? Are
you a Heretick, for that you refuse
the Penance which God and our
Mother the Holy Church, have or-
dained? I use the Confession, an-
swereth the young Gentlewoman,
as the Church hath commanded,
and

and would with all my heart, receive the absolution, and undergo the Penance, but I will permit no means, you should lay your hands there, and in that manner I refuse your Penance. And before that was done, says the Confessor, I can grant you no absolution. The Gentlewoman riseth from before him, having a Conscience very much troubled, for she was young, that she was afraid she had committed a great fault in refusing to do that the good Father had imposed her. After this came to the Mass, and the Countess of Egmont had received Corpus Domini, the Gentlewoman's Honour going after her, asked her Daughter, if she was ready; To which the Daughter crying, Replyed, She was not as yet Confessed

confessed? And what have you done
 so long with the Priest, quoth the
 Mother. Nothing at all, answers
 the Daughter, because I refused to
 take the Penance which he laid up-
 on me, he also refused to give me
 absolution. The Mother did not
 so narrowly inquire after the
 matter, perceiving it was some
 strange kind of Penance which the
 Fryer would have inflicted upon
 her, but made her presently
 Confess to another, and so went
 to the Sacrament both together.
 And as soon as the Countess was
 returned from the Church, the
 Gentlewoman of Honour, made
 her Complaints about this Fryer,
 whereat she marvelled, and was
 very much astonished, being she
 had had so good an Opinion of
 him. But all her Astonishment
 I could

could not keep her from Laughing at the hearing of that News about the Penance. Neither could her Laughing withhold from Commanding him to be Apprehended, and to be beaten in the Kitchen: And by the Vertue of Rods to Confess the Truth, and after that she leant him, tyed Hands and Feet, to the Guardian, desiring him that he another time should give Commission to Men of better Life than he was to preach the Gospel.

*The vile wickedness of a Monk,
together with the shallowness
and simplicity of a Nun.*

IN one of the most famous
Cities of *France*, *Paris*, onely
excepted, there is an Hospital
richly endowed, consisting in a
Priory of fifteen or sixteen Nuns,
and in an Apartment before it
there is a Priory with seven or
eight Monks, which did every
day attend Divine Service, but
as for the Nuns, they were onely
to say their *Pater-nosters* and
Ave-Maries, because they were
bound to attend the poor sick
Folks of the Hospital. Now it
came to pass that one of the poor
men of the said Hospital fell very
dangerously sick, and the Nuns
I 2 gathering

gathering themselves together, did administer all possible Remedies in order to his Recovery; but seeing him very ill, they sent for the Confessor, and perceivings him to grow weaker and weaker, they gave him the Extreme Unction, after which he presently became speechless. Now because it was a long while before he could give up the ghost, and it seemed that he still understood what was said, they did strive to suggest to him the best words and expressions they were capable of; but it being already very late, and the dead time of the night, they grew weary, and went one after another to Bed, so that no body remained to bury the dead Corps but one of the youngest Nuns, together with the Confessor,

Confessor, whom, because of his
 austerity and strictness of Life, she
 feared even more than the Prior
 himself. These two having used
 great Exclamations, and Repeti-
 tions of the Name of *Jesus* in
 the ears of the poor man, and
 at last perceiving he was quite
 gone, they both assisted to bury
 him; and because they were em-
 ployed in a good work of Mercy,
 this holy Monk began a Di-
 scourse about Mercy, the Frailty
 of this Life, and the Happiness
 of the Life to come; so that they
 passed the best part of the night
 entertaining themselves with
 such Discourses. The poor Nun
 did attentively hearken to his
 Divine Expressions, and looked
 upon him with tears in her eyes,
 in which this holy Father took

to much delight, that as he was speaking of the Life to come, he embraced her as straitly as if he had a mind to carry her presently to Heaven in his Arms. The poor silly Nun hearkning to his Discourse, durst not put him by, nor refuse his Embraces. This damnable Hypocrite perceiving her simplicity, did proceed further; and as he was still speaking to her concerning God, and other spiritual things, did commit with her the most obscene Act of the Flesh; and withal told her, that a secret sin was not punished before God, and that two single Persons cannot sin in that case, if there arise no scandal of it; and to avoid that, she should beware of confessing her self to any but himself. So they parted; but

but she going her way the first, and passing by a Chappel dedicated to the Virgin *Mary*, she went to give her the Angels Salutation, as she used to do; but looking upon the Image of the Virgin *Mary*, and knowing that she had now forfeited the Honour of that Title and excellent Dignity, and that without any great Allurements, and less Love, but only by a silly fear and compliance; she then began to weep as bitterly as if her Heart had been ready to break. The Monk, who though afar off, heard her deep sighs and groans, suspecting her repentance, and fearing the loss of his future Pleasure in the enjoyment of her, that he might divert her, came presently to her, whom he found prostrate at the

feet of the said Image ; but he
 check'd her smartly , and told
 her, That if she was so silly and
 scrupulous as to think she had
 committed a sin in so doing, that
 then she should do so no more un-
 less she would, and that he was
 ready to give her Absolution.
 This silly Soul thinking to make
 satisfaction to God for her sin,
 went presently to confess her
 sin to him, who enjoyned her no
 other Penance , but onely told
 her, That she had contracted no
 guilt of sin in loving him, and
 that a drop or two of Holy-water
 would easily wash away so insig-
 nificant a "Pecadillo." And she
 putting more confidence in him
 than in God himself, did a while
 after yield again to his brutal
 desire, who paid her so home,
 that

that her Belly began to swell ; which she took so to heart, that making her Condition known to the Abbess, she besought her to expel that Monk out of the Monastery, telling her, That she knew him to be so full of wiles, and so crafty, that she feared she should not be able to withstand his temptation, who would leave no stone unturn'd to inveigle her again. The Abbess and the Prior (who understood one another, as being partners perhaps in the same guilt) did but laugh at her, telling her, That she was of an age sufficient to defend herself from the attempts of one man, and that he whom she accused had always had the repute of a very sober honest man: At length she being exceedingly tormented

mented with a violent remorse of a guilty Conscience, craved their leave to go to *Rome*, thinking that if she did but confess her sins at the Popes Feet, and kiss his Toe, she should become as pure a Virgin as ever she had been: And that both the Priour and the Abbess very willingly granted, and furnished her with Money for her Journey, for they rather chose she should become a Pilgrim, although it was against the Rules of her Order, than that she should be a Recluse Nun, and be so scrupulous; and besides, they were afraid that in detaining her, in a despairing Passion she should reveal their vile and swinish manner of life.

*The Canning of a Jesuit, and the
Simplicity of a Fryer.*

WE have been long enough Expatiating in the Gardens of several Countries, and Collected many Flowers (though not altogether well smelling) for our Pastime and Diversion; now leaving off to transport them any more at present out of Forreign parts, will see if there be none of our own Plantation here in *England*, which may be as delightful as the rest. And indeed it should tend to the prejudice of Jesuits and Fryers, if they should exempt only *England* from their deluding Tricks, a Country so plentiful, and having store of all, to the very Superfluity.

perfluity. Therefore to free them from such a Scandalous Aspersi-
on, I'll relate to the kind Reader,
a History, which not long since
hapned here in *England*, and a-
bove the rest, in the Famous Ci-
ty of *London*. And it is about
two Priests, the one being a *Je-
suit*, and the other a *Carmelitan*
Fryer.

It is not unknown to many,
how that a Minister named *Tra-
vers* had two Sons, which he edu-
cated after the best method a Fa-
ther could bethink himself for
the benefit of his Children. Af-
terwards they not being conten-
ted with that Education they
had at home, resolved to go be-
yond Seas, there to learn Fashi-
ons. Languages, as well as to
polish their Minds in Arts and
Scien-

Sciences. Amongst the rest of the Countries they intended to see, *Italy* was one, where being, and getting into Familiar Acquaintance of some Fryers and Jesuits, at last turned *Roman-Catholicks*. And so crafty was this Priestly Perswasion, that they not only accepted their Religion, but also would needs be Religious. So both of them became to be Ghostly Fathers, one a Jesuit, the other a Fryer, commonly call'd a *Carmelite*. Being in Orders, and by their Learning and Carriage very much approving themselves to both the Orders, they gained Credit and Honour amongst all of their Companies. And since they were *Englishmen* bred and born, were judged fit to be sent into *Englan*
for!

to be Emissionaries of the Holy Father, in order to the Conversion of the Souls of Poor, Forlorn *Hereticks*. The *Carmelit* was more simple than witty, and his natural Integrity was term'd *Honesty*. The *Jesuit* more Cunning, as commonly that sort of Cattel are, but an *Atheist*. Yet bearing an outward show of Sanctity, he was counted a very Pious Man, and for his Prudence and Dexterity in performing of secular matters, was chosen to be the Procurer General of all the *Jesuits* Goods in *England*. Whatsoever Moneys they had, it was in his Custody, or whom he appointed for it. Many Lands and Goods he bought for them for to augment their Estates, under his own Name. In a Word, he was

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the *Totum Fac* of all the *English Jesuits*. Afterwards he once be-
 thought him to beguile all the
 rest of his Brethren, and what he
 had done for their general good,
 to draw it to his own particular
 ends and profit, especially seeing
 they had not for a long time ta-
 ken any account of their Money
 and Lands in his Custody, as
 trusting to his Integrity and
 Goodness. So he began to spend
 freely, and to dispose of Goods
 and Moneys, and was cried up
 for the bravest and the most gene-
 rous Gentleman of the Town.
 The *Jesuits* hearing this, and
 knowing he had nothing of his
 own, concluded he must needs
 waste their Estates and Moneys:
 Therefore they met together,
 calls this *Peter Travers*, and de-
 mand

mands he should give an account of his Stewardship. He seeing the businets should not smell well if it should be stir'd from the very bottom, answers them (which he all along thought to do, if so be they should call him to an account) he had no reason to give them any account, for whatsoever Money he had, it was his own and not theirs, and as to the Lands they were his by Law, by reason they were all bought under his Name, and no Bodies else (for the *Jesuits* for fear of being discovered, make always their Lands to be bought under one Gentlemans Name.) The *Jesuits* Astonished and Surprized at this his talking, knew not what to say, especially living amongst *Protestants* (whom they call *Hereticks*)

reticks) where if they should go to Law under the name of Priests, they should not onely forfeit their Estates, but (according to the Statute) lose their Lives also, for receiving Orders beyond Sea. After they had long debated the matter among them, at last they resolved to go to Law, rather than lose all; and that they might not be discovered as Jesuits, to plead as Persons Secular, wrong'd by this now Esquire *Travers*.

When they had Indicted this holy Father, and came to the Bar, the Pleadings were so obscure and nonsensical, that the Judges knew not what to say, for want of clear Evidence in the matter: till at last, as wise and prudent Men, (especially some of them knowing what *Travers* was)

was) they perceived they were all Priests ; and so , not without laughter and admiration, throwing the controverted Bone among them, desired them to agree among themselves , for that the matter was so obscure, as that it could not be (the things being as they were) decided at the Bench. The *Jesuits* were now in a worse condition than before, and knew not what to do, or what to think in this matter ; all the Tenants of the Lands taking this *Travers* for their lawful Landlord , and the Moneys being in his hands and command ; so they desired him to come to a Composition. He not designing to defraud them of all, did agree to it, but still reserving the greatest part of the Moneys and Lands to his own

own use, made the rest over to the *Jesuits*.

Being now so well furnished with Goods and Lands, he intended to marry, that so he might have Heirs to whom to leave his Estate: And yet neither would he turn *Protestant*, for fear of losing his Reputation; neither could he take a Wife, being a *Roman-Catholick* in Orders. But at last he found out a way whereby he might still continue of that Religion, and be no more a Priest, and by that means have freedom to take a Wife, *nemine contradicente*.

He therefore comes to his Brother the *Carmelite* Fryer, and with a great complaint and heaviness of heart tells him, that he was persuaded he was never baptized:

baptized: For, saith he, in all the Register books of many Parishes, and particularly in that where I was born, I do not find my Name; whether it was by the negligence of my Father, or how it hapned, I do not know: but sure I am, I am not baptized.

The good old Frier was extremely amazed at it; and though he could not at the first be persuaded of any such thing, yet at last, by the great assurance of the *Jesuit*, and his forged Reasons and Arguments tending to that purpose, he believed him. The *Jesuit* seeing his Business went on so well, desired at last his Brother would be pleased to do him that charitable deed as to baptise him; for he was afraid to be damn'd for ever, because
he

he was not as yet inserted into the true Church, out of whose Bosom there is no hopes of Salvation. The old *Carmelite* did it willingly, and accordingly he was baptised. Now he being put in Orders, and having made the profession of a Religious Person, emitted his Vows, and done all the rest of those Trumperies belonging to a Regular Priest's Life, without being baptised, was not onely not bound to continue as he was, but *ipso facto* he was counted as Irregular; and if he would be a Person Ecclesiastick, he was to take Ordes anew upon him, and to make a second Profession. But so wise he was, that he never returned to the *Jesuits*, but continued a Person Secular, living in that same Religion (that they

they should not think him to be an Apostate, or to have done that Trick to the *Jesuits* because he intended to turn *Protestant*; and so married a Wife, which was the only reason of his rebaptization, and hath begot several Children on her. How he now liveth, and what his Condition is, I was not so curious as to inquire. As far as his Cunning, and his Brothers Simplicity do reach, I have here deposed, being neither willing to offend the parties, nor to have their Examples imitated.

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